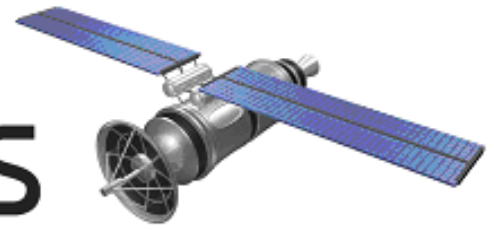


# FutureHorizons



The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

## FH MONDAY

1<sup>st</sup> May 2017

### Samsung Lifted by Strong Memory Chip Sales

South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. announced its highest quarterly profit in three years, boosted

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### Faster Networks Push Interface Development

As Ethernet speeds get faster, Rambus is looking to make sure memory and interfaces can keep up with the recent launch 56G SerDes PHY.

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### 'Cypress 3.0' Strategy Bearing Fruit

Cypress Semiconductor Corp. reported record first quarter sales that beat analysts' expectations Thursday (April 27), offering tangible evidence that the company's strategy to target markets growing faster than the overall semiconductor industry is bearing fruit.

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### TALK TO US



### UMC Sees Weakening Demand at 28nm

United Microelectronics Corp. (UMC), Taiwan's second largest foundry, said sales of its most advanced technology node have slipped for a third time under strong competition. The company's 28nm process fell to 17 percent of overall sales in the first quarter of this year compared with 22 percent in the fourth quarter last year

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### EVENTS

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– 12 June 2017 – London UK

#### [Industry Forecast Briefing](#)

– 19 September 2017 – London UK

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### Solid State Batteries Aim to Top Li-ion

Batteries could be transformed from our slowest growing technology to our fastest growing advanced technology if Ilika Technologies Ltd. (University of Southampton Science Park, Southampton U.K.) can realize its dream of self-powered systems-on-chip (SoCs).

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Future Horizons Ltd, • 44 Bethel Road • Sevenoaks • Kent TN13 3UE • England

Tel: +44 1732 740440 • Fax: +44 1732 740442

e-mail: [mail@futurehorizons.com](mailto:mail@futurehorizons.com) • <http://www.futurehorizons.com/>

Affiliates in Europe, India, Israel, Japan, Russian, San Jose California, USA

## **Samsung Lifted by Strong Memory Chip Sales**

South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. announced its highest quarterly profit in three years, boosted mainly by the strength of the company's memory chip business.

Samsung's semiconductor division reported its highest ever operating profit of 6.31 trillion won (about \$5.6 billion), an increase of 140 percent compared to the first quarter of 2016, as sales of both DRAM and NAND flash memory soared amid a boom in memory chips. Samsung's total semiconductor sales of 15.7 trillion won (about \$13.9 billion) were up 40 percent year-over-year and 5 percent sequentially, the company said.

The strength of Samsung's memory business helped the South Korean electronics giant shake off the fiasco of last year's Galaxy 7 recall to post an overall operating profit of 9.9 trillion won (about \$8.7 billion), up 48 percent compared with the first quarter of 2016. Total sales for the quarter of 50.55 trillion won (about \$48.5 billion) were down 2 percent compared to the seasonally strong fourth quarter but up 5 percent compared with the first quarter of 2016

## **Faster Networks Push Interface Development**

As Ethernet speeds get faster, Rambus is looking to make sure memory and interfaces can keep up with the recent launch 56G SerDes PHY.

The analog-to-digital converter (ADC) and (DSP) architecture of the 56G SerDes PHY is designed meet the long-reach backplane requirements for the industry transition to 400 GB Ethernet applications, said Mohit Gupta, senior director of product marketing at Rambus. This means it can support scaling to speeds as fast as 112G, which are required in the networking and enterprise segments, such as enterprise server racks that are moving from 100G to 400G.

"Ethernet is moving faster than ever," Gupta said. "The pace has picked up substantially due to big data, the Internet of Things (IoT) and other trends putting high demands on communication channels. There is already a forum for 112G SerDes speed which will drive the 800G standard."

## **'Cypress 3.0' Strategy Bearing Fruit**

Cypress Semiconductor Corp. reported record first quarter sales that beat analysts' expectations Thursday (April 27), offering tangible evidence that the company's strategy to target markets growing faster than the overall semiconductor industry is bearing fruit.

"Our revenue strength in the first quarter was across end markets, particularly from IoT, and NOR memory was stronger than we expected," said Hassane El-Khoury, Cypress president and CEO, in a conference call with analysts following the quarterly report.

El-Khoury said automotive was Cypress's strongest end market in the first quarter, with record sales and design activity. He said automotive sales now make up about one-third of Cypress's total revenue, up from just 11 percent of the firm's revenue in 2011.

## **UMC Sees Weakening Demand at 28nm**

United Microelectronics Corp. (UMC), Taiwan's second largest foundry, said sales of its most advanced technology node have slipped for a third time under strong competition.

The company's 28nm process fell to 17 percent of overall sales in the first quarter of this year compared with 22 percent in the fourth quarter last year. It's been a bumpy ride for UMC. The company has seen its portion of overall sales from 28nm decline on a quarterly basis for the third time since ramping up the process technology nearly three years ago, according to company reports

## **Solid State Batteries Aim to Top Li-ion**

Batteries could be transformed from our slowest growing technology to our fastest growing advanced technology if Ilika Technologies Ltd. (University of Southampton Science Park, Southampton U.K.) can realize its dream of self-powered systems-on-chip (SoCs).

By eliminating the liquid cores of every other battery technology under the sun -- especially the flammable lithium ion (Li-ion) -- into the solid-state micron-thin-layers of an SoC, each chip in an electronic circuit could become self-powered, simplifying printed circuit boards and eliminating the big-iron power supplies required today.