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Wearables Market Pivoting Fashionablv

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ARM's DynamIQ eyes performance for AI

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TowerJazz Rolls Out Silicon Photonics Process

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Wearables Market Pivoting Fashionably

Contrary to reports, the market for wearable electronics is far from dead.

Unit shipments of wearable electronics posted a 17% year-over-year increase in the fourth quarter, according to International Data Corp. (IDC). At least one IDC analyst believes wearables are poised for big things in 2017 and beyond.

The wearables market was largely expected to take off after the introduction of the Apple Watch in 2015. But that hasn't exactly happened... yet. Other than successful fitness trackers like Fitbit and a smattering of smartwatches, wearables have not exactly become a fashion statement.

Intel Boots Drives with 3D XPoint

Intel Corp. announced its first solid-state drives using its 3D XPoint memory chips. The Optane SSDs are expected to establish a small, but significant, beachhead for the technology, which is one of several alternatives pioneering a new market between flash and DRAM chips.

The DC P4800X is a server drive riding the NVMe interface, initially available in a 375-GByte version that lists for a retail price of $1,520, about three times the cost of a similar NAND card. It delivers less than 20-microsecond read-and-write latencies and a 30-disk-writes/day endurance with an estimated three-year lifetime.

Intel will ship before the end of the year 750-GByte and 1.5-TByte versions with an estimated five-year lifetime. All will be available in 2.5-inch U.2 and add-in card form factors.

ST's SPAD Imager Likely Linked to iPhone 8

Apple’s upcoming iPhone 8 — allegedly featuring a “3D camera” — has been the subject of intense speculation among the media and the financial community for months.

The dots in this puzzle that have yet to be connected are the explicit relationships among the iPhone 8, single photon avalanche diodes (SPAD) and a company in Europe — STMicroelectronics.

Obviously, any connection that would identify Apple as an ST customer is one that ST wouldn't touch with a ten-foot diode. ST, ergo, is mum.

However, Yole Développement, a Lyon-based market research firm with strong focus on technology analysis, recently drew an almost unbroken line from dot to dot. Yole’s educated guess is that ST is bringing a brand new 3D (array) imager to Apple iPhone 8 — an innovation that will alter the phone’s user interface.

ARM's Dynamiq Eyes Performance For AI

Seeing a growing demand for artificial intelligence (AI) products that enable automated systems—in driving, manufacturing and consumer products--ARM is developing its own answer in what they are calling "DynamIQ" technology.

Essentially the next step for Cortex-A processors, DynamIQ touts a multi-core microarchitecture. ARM has announced that the introduction of the technology is an evolutionary step forward for ARM big.LITTLE technology.

It carries on the ‘right processor for the right task’ approach from ARM and enables configurations of big and LITTLE processors on a single compute cluster, which was previously not possible. ARM's announcement provides an example: 1+3 or 1+7 DynamIQ big.LITTLE configurations with substantially more granular and optimal control are now possible.

TowerJazz Rolls Out Silicon Photonics Process

SAN FRANCISCO—Specialty foundry TowerJazz Thursday (March 23) rolled out a silicon photonic (SiPho) process to complement its silicon-germanium (SiGe) BiCMOS process used for manufacturing optical transceiver electronics.

“We are excited to be entering the silicon photonics foundry space in order to provide solutions to a greater portion of the optical transceiver market for our customers,” said Marco Racanelli, senior vice president and general manager TowerJazz's RF & High Performance Analog business unit, in a statement.

Silicon photonics is a promising emerging technology for the production of photonic ICs, which transfer data using laser light in less time than conventional ICs.