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The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

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Intel Pumps Up PCs with Optane

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Samsung Edges TSMC in 10 nm

INDIANAPOLIS — Samsung appears to be about a quarter ahead of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) with the ramp of 10-nm process technology, according to a veteran chip analyst. Earlier this year, Samsung and TSMC said that they would launch 10-nm foundry services during the second quarter this year for customers such as Qualcomm, Mediatek,.....

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Analog Devices acquires GaAs, GaN amp vendor

Analog Devices Inc. (ADI) is acquiring OneTree Microdevices Inc., a privately-held fabless RF company based in Santa Rosa, California. OneTree is focused on solving DOCSIS 3.1 challenges for cable markets.

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TALK TO US



Cypress wireless chip powers Raspberry Pi IoT board

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Asian Tech Investment in U.S. May Rise

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) and other Asian tech firms may contribute to a rising tide of investment in the U.S. in response to some expected Trump administration initiatives.

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Intel Pumps Up Pcs With Optane

SAN JOSE, Calif. — On April 24, Intel will start selling M.2 cards using its 3D XPoint memories as accelerators for PC hard drives. They become the second 3DXP products from Intel following solid-state drives for servers announced earlier this month.

Intel claims the new cards will create more responsive PCs, improving performance across a wide range of tasks. When the cards were announced at CES, one analyst claimed they lack “a clear benefit to the average PC purchaser” and are “likely to appeal only to enthusiasts with an unlimited budget.”

Intel lists the products at \$44 for a 16 GByte card and \$77 for a 32 GByte version. They use an NVMe 1.1 interface to deliver a typical sequential read latency of six microseconds and 16 microseconds for writes. Intel lists endurance for the cards as 100 GByte writes/day.

Samsung Edges TSMC In 10 nm

INDIANAPOLIS — Samsung appears to be about a quarter ahead of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) with the ramp of 10-nm process technology, according to a veteran chip analyst.

Earlier this year, Samsung and TSMC said that they would launch 10-nm foundry services during the second quarter this year for customers such as Qualcomm, Mediatek, and Huawei’s semiconductor subsidiary, HiSilicon.

Somewhat ahead of schedule, Samsung last week announced that it has shipped 70,000 wafers of 10-nm LPE (low-power early) chips, independent analyst Andrew Lu noted in a report for intelligence provider Smartkarma.

Analog Devices Acquires GaAs, GaN amp Vendor

Analog Devices Inc. (ADI) is acquiring OneTree Microdevices Inc., a privately-held fabless RF company based in Santa Rosa, California.

OneTree is focused on solving DOCSIS 3.1 challenges for cable markets. The last product they launched was in 2015, when the company launched its OTM3228 MMIC that it claimed delivered “GaN-level output performance while providing higher gain.”

Completing the signal chain

ADI, which has mixed-signal products for cable access from data converters to clocking and control/power conditioning, wants to add OneTree’s GaAs and GaN amplifier portfolio to complete the signal chain for next-generation cable access networks.

Cypress Wireless Chip Powers Raspberry Pi Io Board

Raspberry Pi has selected a chipset from Cypress Semiconductor to provide Bluetooth and Wi-Fi interfaces on its new Raspberry Pi Zero W board for IoT applications.

The Cypress CYW43438 combo chip provides 802.11n Wi-Fi for developers to connect their applications to the Internet, along with advanced coexistence algorithms enabling simultaneous Bluetooth 4.1 operations such as audio streaming and low-power Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) connections to smartphones, sensors and other low-power devices. Raspberry Pi’s original board with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, the Raspberry Pi 3, also uses a Cypress wireless solution.

The Raspberry Pi Zero W features a 1GHz, single-core CPU, 512MB RAM, Mini-HDMI and Micro-USB ports, composite video and reset headers and a CSI camera connector, along with 802.11n wireless LAN and Bluetooth 4.1 wireless connectivity.

Asian Tech Investment in U.S. May Rise

INDIANAPOLIS — Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) and other Asian tech firms may contribute to a rising tide of investment in the U.S. in response to some expected Trump administration initiatives.

TSMC reiterated comments from Chairman Morris Chang that the company may build a new U.S. fab as early as next year, possibly joining other global firms that are considering manufacturing in the U.S. amid President Donald Trump’s push to create more jobs.

Expected tax incentives and tightened regulations on sensitive U.S. technology by the Trump administration may help to attract more domestic investment from companies such as Apple and its Asian suppliers like TSMC and Foxconn