# FutureHorizons

The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

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### Can India Capitalise On The Next Chip Wave?

Industry, government, and other stakeholders in India are cognizant of the electronics industry's potential not only to strengthen the country's presence on the global stage but also to advance technology in other domains for the greater societal and economic good. Fully exploiting that potential, however, has proved elusive.New efforts in electronics are unfolding against a backdrop of haphazard economic development in India. Growth initiatives have been skewed toward the country's urban centers, even as the majority of the population remains rural (about 66.46%, according to the World Bank), meaning that a large percentage of the populace does not see the full benefits of investment and development. For too many, access to quality infrastructure, education, and health care is a dream unfulfilled

#### Silicon Labs To Acquire Redpine's Design Centre In Hyderabad

Silicon Labs said it will acquire Redpine Signals' Wi-Fi and Bluetooth assets, its development center of around 200 people in India and its extensive patent portfolio for \$308 million in cash.

With the acquisition, Silicon Labs hopes to do two things. The first is to bring Redpine's existing products into the sales channel and drive IoT revenue growth. The company expects \$20 million in incremental revenue on an annualized basis for FY2020, and targeting \$100 million revenue by 2023 for all its wireless products for the IoT. The other is to rely on the India-based team to accelerate its product development for Wi-Fi 6.

The acquisition includes Bluetooth classic IP (including extended data rate) for audio applications including wearables, hearables, voice assistants and smart speakers. Silicon Labs told EE Times that as part of the deal, the company also acquired Redpine's microcontroller (MCU) business, along with real-time location services technology.

#### AI Chip Startup Raises \$60m

Al chip startup Hailo, based in Tel-Aviv, Israel, has raised \$60 million in a B-round of funding, bringing the company's total financing to \$88 million. This funding will be used for further productization and commercialization of the company's chip, the Hailo-8, as well as continued development of the company's hardware and software, and to support an increased global presence as the company grows.

Hailo launched its Hailo-8 processor for edge and endpoint devices in May 2019. It uses a novel architecture in which compute, memory and control blocks are mixed together; software allocates adjacent blocks to work on each layer of a neural network, depending on the compute and memory requirements of that layer. It offers 26 TOPS at 2.8 TOPS/W for AI inference acceleration in edge and endpoint devices.

#### **Europe to Get Its First IBM Quantum Computer**

IBM is to install its first quantum computer system in Germany as part of a collaboration agreement with Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft to provide European companies and research institutions with access to the technology and explore application scenarios. It will also allow development of application-oriented quantum computing strategies under complete data sovereignty of European law.

As part of the collaboration, an IBM Q System One quantum computer will be installed in an IBM computer center near Stuttgart. The system is scheduled to go into operation in early 2021 and will be the first of its kind in Europe. Fraunhofer plans to bring together established partners from research and industry under the umbrella of a research infrastructure of Fraunhofer institutes, which will work together in a centrally coordinated national Fraunhofer competence network for quantum computing. The network will initially be represented by competence centers in six German states – Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Rhineland-Palatinate, Berlin, Hesse and North Rhine-Westphalia. Currently, more than ten Fraunhofer Institutes are already working on various fields of quantum technology.

#### More Apps for 'Digital' Car Keys

Carmakers, smartphone designers and chip suppliers have been developing "digital car keys" for some time. Thanks to the efforts by the Car Connectivity Consortium (CCC), a cross-industry organization, "The industries have come together on one standard as to how to open a car," explained Rainer Lutz, director of digital key and NFC segments at NXP Semiconductors.

But once a car key goes digital, why limit its applications to just unlocking and locking? Digital key applications reimagined by automakers include starting the engine via smartphone, authenticating users, sharing the digital key remotely with other authorized users, or revoking these sharing privileges.