

FutureHorizons



The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

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Space, Industry Look to Robotic Vision as Next Evolution

18 years into the new millennium, there are a number of exciting and evolving electronic innovations taking place. Among them is the development of 'intelligent' robots for industry, especially in smart factories (see The role of Sensors in the Industrial IoT (IIoT)).

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Weak China Demand Stings Intel

SAN FRANCISCO — Intel became the latest chipmaker stung by slowing demand in China, as the biggest U.S. semiconductor firm offered a fourth-quarter report and first-quarter forecast that both fell short of Wall Street's expectations.

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BSNL uses M2M Tech to Make "Smart" Cars for Tata Motors

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TALK TO US



Apple SoCs to Dump x86 CPUs?

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RFID Tag Exporter Syrma to take on Domestic market

BENGALURU — Chennai-based exporter of electronic products Syrma Technologies, part of the Tandon group of companies, has emerged as dark horse in the Indian electronics manufacturing landscape and poised to take on the domestic market as well.

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Space, Industry Look To Robotic Vision As Next Evolution

18 years into the new millennium, there are a number of exciting and evolving electronic innovations taking place. Among them is the development of 'intelligent' robots for industry, especially in smart factories (see The role of Sensors in the Industrial IoT (IIoT)).

The advent of 5G communications will enable factories to take data from the production floor that will improve quality and enable increased automation. 5G low latency with accelerated edge computing, coupled with fast sampling capability, will give rise to higher speeds in manufacturing and enable closed-loop inline inspection of manufactured components⁸.

Weak China Demand Stings Intel

SAN FRANCISCO — Intel became the latest chipmaker stung by slowing demand in China, as the biggest U.S. semiconductor firm offered a fourth-quarter report and first-quarter forecast that both fell short of Wall Street's expectations.

Intel (Santa Clara, California) set an all-time high for the third straight year with 2018 sales of \$70.8 billion and reported broad-based fourth-quarter growth across nearly every business unit. However, growth in data center sales came in far below what the company forecast as demand from Chinese customers weakened.

Bob Swann, Intel's interim CEO, also cited dramatically weakening modem demand and a weakening NAND pricing environment for the sales shortfall. Since October, cloud service providers have shifted from building capacity to absorbing capacity, further hurting sales, he said.

BSNL uses M2M Tech to Make "Smart" Cars For Tata Motors

Bengaluru: Government-owned telecom firm Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has decided to ink a deal with Tata Motors for a first ever machine-to-machine (M2M) communications pact.

The tie-up envisages that the telco will supply embedded SIM cards that will help transform the automaker's vehicles into smart cars, according to a report in the Economic Times.

Here, in this context, smart cars are not the ADAS (advance driver assistance systems) or autonomous vehicles that are being widely talked about and experimented on, but more on the lines of being IoT-enabled.

Smart cars will help automobile makers to offer better consumer experience through new-age products with real-time connected features over a wireless network for traffic information, weather forecasts and even facial recognition.

Apple SoCs to Dump x86 CPUs?

In a recent post on Apple's latest smartphones, tablets and wearables, I chose to not direct the bulk of my kudos at the company's system designers, instead focusing my attention on the developers of the SoCs (and IP cores within those SoCs) inside those systems. Toward the end of that piece, I also noted that I'd shortly begin working on "a broader treatise of whether or not (and if so, how and when) Apple will obsolete x86-based computers in favor of its own SoC-powered successors." The time for that "near-future post of its own" is now.

Rumors and prognostications about Apple migrating Macs away from Intel and to its own Arm-based application processors periodically rise (and fall away) in the tech press and analyst world, but in recent times they've seemingly hit a crescendo. Why? In a big-picture sense, this is the latest (potential) step in a processor architecture transition within the company that began with the Apple-designed A4 found in the first-generation iPad, an ironic launch platform choice given that iPads are now being bantered around as potential laptop successors.

RFID Tag Exporter Syrma To Take On Domestic Market

BENGALURU — Chennai-based exporter of electronic products Syrma Technologies, part of the Tandon group of companies, has emerged as dark horse in the Indian electronics manufacturing landscape and poised to take on the domestic market as well.

Founded in 2006, Syrma Technologies, today, is a \$60-million manufacturer and exporter of radio frequency identity (RFID) tags, magnetics coils, printed circuit boards assemblies (PCBAs), and box-built products for a wide range of applications. It also provides design-for-manufacturing (DFM) solutions to its customers.

In the last decade alone, Syrma has successfully co-developed, manufactured, and shipped over 200 million product units for more than 100 reputed original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in over 50 countries