

# FutureHorizons



The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

## FH MONDAY

6 January 2020

### Imagination Reignites Relationship with Apple

A year after taking the helm at Imagination Technologies, CEO Ron Black appears to have managed to put an end to a phase of uncertainty for his company by signing a new agreement with Apple. Apple made a public statement in 2017, notifying that it was ditching Imagination, by designing the UK firm's IP cores out of Apple's products within two years

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### Non-Flammable Electrolyte to Increase Battery Safety

A new technology from Jenax is now able to solve the safety problems that affect batteries which catch fire, explode at extremely high temperatures, or short circuit. Thanks to this technology, which is built into battery cells, the safety of products — including those in electric vehicles — is greatly improved while ensuring high battery performance.

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### AlMotive Starts Shipments of aiWare3

Hungary-based AlMotive, a developer of software and hardware based automated driving technologies, has started shipment of its aiWare3 neural network (NN) hardware inference engine intellectual property (IP) to its lead customers.

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### TALK TO US



### Porsche Collaborates with TriEye

Israeli startup TriEye has announced a collaboration with Porsche to use its short-wave infra-red (SWIR) cameras to achieve better visibility for advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) and autonomous vehicles (AV) in adverse weather conditions and at night-time.

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### EVENTS

#### [Silicon Chip Industry Seminar](#)

10 June - 2019 – London UK

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

– 17 Sept 2019 – London UK

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### HiSilicon No Longer Huawei's Captive Chipmaker

HiSilicon launched 4G communication chips on an open market, making it official that Huawei's internal IC division is now externally supplying a host of chips to the industry. While Huawei HiSilicon is the largest chip design company in China, it has always preferred to portray itself as having just one big customer: Huawei.

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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

## **Imagination Reignites Relationship With Apple**

A year after taking the helm at Imagination Technologies, CEO Ron Black appears to have managed to put an end to a phase of uncertainty for his company by signing a new agreement with Apple.

Apple made a public statement in 2017, notifying that it was ditching Imagination, by designing the UK firm's IP cores out of Apple's products within two years.

That, however, appears to be no longer the case.

Imagination, in a one-line press statement, said today that it has replaced the multi-year, multi-use license agreement with Apple, first announced on February 6, 2014, with a new multi-year license agreement under which Apple has access to a wider range of Imagination's intellectual property in exchange for license fees

## **Non-Flammable Electrolyte o Increase Battery Safety**

A new technology from Jenax is now able to solve the safety problems that affect batteries which catch fire, explode at extremely high temperatures, or short circuit. Thanks to this technology, which is built into battery cells, the safety of products — including those in electric vehicles — is greatly improved while ensuring high battery performance.

“Liquid is the best conductor for ionic movement, which means it delivers the best battery performance. But, as liquid can also be a tremendous fire hazard, many manufacturers try to use solid-state electrolytes instead: They sacrifice efficiency — and in the case of wearables — comfort, and usability for safety,” said EJ Shin, Director of Jenax. “Jenax has always been focused on delivering the greatest combination of safety and performance. With our nonflammable electrolyte, we're taking both to the next level — providing the peace of mind manufacturers and consumers need with the high performance they deserve.”

## **AIMotive Starts Shipments Of aiWare3**

Hungary-based Almotive, a developer of software and hardware based automated driving technologies, has started shipment of its aiWare3 neural network (NN) hardware inference engine intellectual property (IP) to its lead customers.

Its aiWare3P IP core, which was announced last year, offers a hardware NN accelerator for high-resolution automotive vision applications, and as a component within ISO26262 ASIL A, B and above certified subsystems. The core, which can be deployed within a system on chip (SoC), or as a standalone NN accelerator, is provided as fully synthesizable RTL; its low-level microarchitecture is designed to use far less host CPU or shared memory resources than other hardware NN accelerators.

## **Porsche Collaborates With TriEye**

Israeli startup TriEye has announced a collaboration with Porsche to use its short-wave infra-red (SWIR) cameras to achieve better visibility for advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) and autonomous vehicles (AV) in adverse weather conditions and at night-time.

Founded in 2016 by CEO Avi Bakal, VP of R&D Omer Kapach and Professor Uriel Levy, the CTO, after nearly a decade of advanced nanophotonics research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, TriEye has developed an HD SWIR camera that is CMOS-based, enabling the scalable mass-production of SWIR sensors and reducing the cost by a factor of 1,000 compared to current InGaAs-based technology, according to the firm. As a result, the company can produce an affordable HD SWIR camera in a miniaturized format, supporting easy in-vehicle mounting behind the car's windshield. TriEye said it has already succeeded in proving the technology works and can be mass-produced.

## **HiSilicon No Longer Huawei's Captive Chipmaker**

HiSilicon launched 4G communication chips on an open market, making it official that Huawei's internal IC division is now externally supplying a host of chips to the industry.

While Huawei HiSilicon is the largest chip design company in China, it has always preferred to portray itself as having just one big customer: Huawei.

Huawei's strategy to keep HiSilicon as an internal unit — tasked to design and supply its chips only to Huawei — has worked well for the global telecom giant. Especially, since HiSilicon's Kirin series of chips, capable of AI processing, has given Huawei a huge advantage over competitors.

It turns out, however, that HiSilicon has been quietly spreading its wings, supplying chips in some sub-sectors, a move Huawei and HiSilicon had not acknowledged before.