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GF Sells Ex-IBM Fab to ON Semi

SAN JOSE, Calif. — GlobalFoundries will sell its 300-mm Fab 10 in East Fishkill, New York, to ON Semiconductor for \$430 million. The deal is the second and largest of three sales, restructuring the foundry to pursue profits as a provider of specialty processes.

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Xilinx to Buy Networking Technology Firm Solarflare

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Start-up makes robots small manufacturers can

The top engineers at Qualitetch, a metal components manufacturer in the English town of March in Cambridgeshire, gathered around last November when Eva arrived for her first day of work.

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TALK TO US



Samsung Electronics Downbeat Over Chip And Panel Sales Growth

Samsung Electronics says it expects "limited improvement" in the memory chip market in the second quarter as price declines are likely to continue amid oversupply, renewing concerns about the technology giant's growth outlook.

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SiLabs Rolls Out New IoT Modules

Seeking ease of use, designers are increasingly turning to modules rather than SoCs to build out the Internet of Things, said a Silicon Labs executive overseeing the sector as he launched a new generation of IoT chips

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GF Sells Ex-IBM Fab To ON Semi

SAN JOSE, Calif. — GlobalFoundries will sell its 300-mm Fab 10 in East Fishkill, New York, to ON Semiconductor for \$430 million. The deal is the second and largest of three sales, restructuring the foundry to pursue profits as a provider of specialty processes.

The duo will take until 2022 to transition a variety of GF's processes and customers out of the former IBM fab. ON is expected to retain the roughly 1,300 people at the fab as it ramps up power and other semiconductor processes there in a transition expected to be completed in December 2022.

The deal is the largest step to date in GF's decision in August 2018 to pivot away from pursuing leading-edge process technology. It also underscores the increasingly competitive nature of the business of making semiconductors.

Xilinx to Buy Networking Technology Firm Solarflare

SAN FRANCISCO — Programmable logic supplier Xilinx said that it will acquire networking solutions vendor Solarflare on the same day it reported that its annual sales had exceeded \$3 billion for the first time.

Financial terms for the acquisition were not disclosed. But Xilinx (San Jose, California) first became an investor in Solarflare in 2017, when the two companies began working together on advanced networking technology.

Last month at the Open Compute Summit, Xilinx and Solarflare demonstrated their first joint solution — a single-chip FPGA-based 100G SmartNIC, capable of processing 100 million packets per second (receive and transmit) while consuming less than 75 W.

Start-Up Makes Robots Small Manufacturers Can Afford

The top engineers at Qualitetch, a metal components manufacturer in the English town of March in Cambridgeshire, gathered around last November when Eva arrived for her first day of work.

A film crew was on hand to capture the moment, as intrigued staff caught a glimpse of the new employee tasked with the most mind-numbing of jobs: loading metal sheets on to a conveyor belt.

Eva, of course, is no ordinary employee. She is a "cobot" — a collaborative robot — with no mind to numb. At £5,000, the nimble white arm was designed to cost a fraction of the price of competitors so it could be deployed at small companies like Qualitetch, a 38-strong team with £3m in revenue.

Samsung Electronics Downbeat Over Chip And Panel Sales Growth

Samsung Electronics says it expects "limited improvement" in the memory chip market in the second quarter as price declines are likely to continue amid oversupply, renewing concerns about the technology giant's growth outlook.

The downbeat outlook for the current quarter came after the South Korean company reported its worst net profit in more than two years, hit by lower prices of memory chips and display panels.

But the company was more optimistic about a second-half recovery and vowed to strengthen its long-term competitiveness by expanding its capabilities in automotive technology and artificial intelligence.

"For the second half of 2019, the company expects memory chip demand for high-density products to increase, but uncertainties in the external environment will persist," the company said, adding that demand for flexible screens was set to increase on new smartphone launches

SiLabs Rolls Out New IoT Modules

Seeking ease of use, designers are increasingly turning to modules rather than SoCs to build out the Internet of Things, said a Silicon Labs executive overseeing the sector as he launched a new generation of IoT chips.

"We sell both chips and multiple flavors of modules including ones with antennas, and we see more customers adopting modules. It removes [wireless] certification complexity — people can save six months in time-to-market," said Matt Johnson, who joined Silicon Labs last year as general manager of IoT products.

Modules still represent a minority of the company's IoT sales, but they are growing faster than the 20% rate of its overall IoT products. "All of our ZWave and a lot of our Zigbee and Bluetooth sales are modules," Johnson said.