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IESA to Accelerate Fabless Startups

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TALK TO US

Startups Reinventing Wi-Fi for IoT

SAN JOSE, Calif. — After an unusual two-year delay, silicon for a new Wi-Fi standard is starting to emerge. Over the next few months, a handful of startups will sample chips for 802.11ah, a 900-MHz version of Wi-Fi targeting long-range links especially for the internet of things.

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Foxconn May Use Sharp To Roll Out First Chip Fab

TAIPEI — Foxconn, the main assembler of Apple's iPhones and iPads, is expected to flex its majority stake in Japan's Sharp to build its first chip fab, according to analysts.

The world's largest electronics contract manufacturer, also known as Hon Hai Precision, aims to launch a $9 billion fab near southern China's Zhuhai city, Nikkei reported in late December, following earlier media reports. The total amount of the investment in the project could add up to around 60 billion yuan, or $9 billion, with most of the investment coming from the Zhuhai government. Foxconn did not answer queries from EE Times.

Saankya Labs Launches Indian-Made SDR Chipset

BENGALURU — City-based fabless semiconductor and systems company Saankhya Labs has launched the first locally-developed electronic chipset that can be used for functions like direct TV broadcast on mobile devices. The device, expected to curb call drops, claims to be one of the world's first and most advanced multi-standard next-generation TV system on a chip.

Simply put, the chipset will facilitate direct transmission of video on mobile phones and can also help convert an Android-based smartphone into a satellite phone.

The Mobile ready version is a first-of-its-kind that supports most advanced IP based next-gen terrestrial TV reception. We expect to launch chipset-based mobile phone accessories in the form of a dongle within a couple of years, Naik said," Parag Naik cofounder, Saankhya Labs said.

IESA To Accelerate Fabless Startups

BENGALURU — The India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA), an Indian trade body representing semiconductor and electronics company, announced the setting up of an accelerator for fabless semiconductor start-ups designing chips for local use products like digital energy meters, LED lighting, smart cards, rural broadband and IoT solutions.

Said to be the first-of-its-kind venture in the Indian semiconductor sector, the Semiconductor Fabless Accelerator Lab (SFAL) would help create a robust infrastructural structure that would support and incubate start-ups in their early stages and would also expedite present fabless SMEs to the next level by facilitating access to funds, mentors, and the market.

Startups Reinventing Wi-Fi for IoT

SAN JOSE, Calif. — After an unusual two-year delay, silicon for a new Wi-Fi standard is starting to emerge. Over the next few months, a handful of startups will sample chips for 802.11ah, a 900-MHz version of Wi-Fi targeting long-range links especially for the internet of things.

The so-called HaLow products promise delivery of up to Mbits/s over distances of tens of meters to a kilometer and support for thousands of nodes on an access point. They will occupy a space between ultra-low-power and -cost LoRa and Sigfox networks and below more power-hungry LTE Cat-M and Narrowband-IoT networks that come with data plans.

Partnership to Develop 5G Base Station Chip

LONDON — Sivers IMA, developer of mmWave products, said that it will jointly develop a 5G base station chip with RF power product company Ampleon, which it expects to bring to market by the end of 2019.

Both companies will jointly develop the product, and Ampleon will part-fund the Sivers IMA development by approximately MSEK 3.5 (about $400K). Ampleon will be the main sales channel to Tier-One OEMs for the product resulting from the project.

Ampleon supplies sub-6-GHz RF power solutions for 4G and 5G cellular base stations, with the top macro cell telecom network OEMs among its customers. The new chip is being developed in response to demand from top-tier OEMs for state-of-the-art mmWave technology for their next-generation 5G base stations. The partnership aims to bring mmWave components to the market by the end of 2019.