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10 August 2015

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Altran Sicon Designs Buys

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The Bank of Russia cut interest rates Friday for the fifth time this year citing economic risks, but declined to commit on whether there would be further monetary easing. The central bank slashed the key rate by 50 basis points to 11%...

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Plessey Expands Dotted Product Range For Wearables With CSP Leds

Plessey announced that its dotLED range, designed specifically for wearable applications, has been expanded with a wider selection of colours, including red, green and blue. The extremely small LED die have a footprint of only 0.2mm x 0.2mm, which makes them a perfect fit for low profile electronic wearable applications.

The white dotLED is available in a 1005 SMT package (1.0mm x 0.5mm), which is a standard electronic component size easily handled by standard surface-mount machines used in high volume, consumer electronics manufacturing. Delivering up to 1.0Lm of white light with a 130 degree viewing angle from a 5mA drive current, the PLW13D003 meets the demand for ever smaller displays. A blue version, the PLB13D003 is also available in a variety of wavelengths from 460nm to 480nm.

France's Altran Buys Bengaluru-Based Semiconductor Design Company Sicon Design

French tech automation technology firm Altran Technologies said it has acquired SiCon Design Technologies, a Bengaluru-based semiconductor design services company, for an undisclosed amount.

Altran, which builds customised solutions for smartphones, medical devices, connected cars and air traffic control systems, would build chip design capability with this acquisition in India.

Founded in Bengaluru in 2010, SiCon has a team of 550 experts, specialised in application-specific integrated circuit design, verification, design for test, field-programmable gate array implementation and embedded software development. With the acquisition, Altran India headcount has doubled from 570 to 1,100. According to Sanjay Kumar, chief executive officer and managing director, Altran India, this is Altran's third and the largest acquisition in India.

Bank of Russia Cuts Interest Rates Again

MOSCOW—The Bank of Russia cut interest rates Friday for the fifth time this year citing economic risks, but declined to commit on whether there would be further monetary easing.

The central bank slashed the key rate by 50 basis points to 11%, in line with the market consensus, taking its total cuts so far this year to six percentage points.

Still, the key rate remains above the 10.5% level it reached in early December, before an emergency increase to 17% that helped to stabilize the plummeting ruble.

Arm Buoyed By Race To Build The Internet Of Things

Arm Holdings has benefited from the increasing focus on the internet of things, with sales and profits increasing in the first half of 2015 as it looked to diversify from its traditional strength in smartphones.

The Cambridge-based group signed a record 54 processor licences in the second quarter of this year, with its chips set to be used in products ranging from biometric sensors for mobile payments to automotive engine controls.

Arm, one of the UK's only large global technology companies, sells licences for blueprints for its chips to manufacturers which pay royalties on each unit shipped. Its components are used in more than 95 per cent of smartphones, with the rise of mobile devices powering its growth in recent years.