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Startup Takes Wireless Patch to Hospital

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TALK TO US



IBM Weaves New 25G Link

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Qualcomm Tips 28 GHz 5G Chip

Qualcomm announced plans for a 28 GHz modem that will be used in separate pre-standard 5G cellular trials by Verizon and Korea Telecom. The news is the latest indication some vendors want to speed up the roll out of elements of 5G, a move one source said comes "at the expense of innovation."

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Ericsson Cuts A Fifth Of Swedish Workforce

Ericsson, the Swedish telecoms equipment maker, confirmed that it would cut a fifth its workforce in its home market in the face of intensifying competition from rivals such as Nokia and Huawei.

About 3,000 jobs will be cut in research, development and sales, with operations in Borås and Kumla expected to bear the brunt of the cuts. A further 900 roles will also be cut outside Sweden as Ericsson, which ousted Hans Vestberg as chief executive in the summer, looks to make further savings.

Ericsson has already cut 30,000 jobs as part of a restructuring kicked off by Mr Vestberg in 2014, although it still employs 115,000 people worldwide. The company has been under pressure from its largest shareholders — the Wallenberg family-backed Investor and Industrivarden — to cut costs and improve its performance.

NXP Pushes Hardware Isolation in i.MX8

In response to the rapidly advancing human-machine interface (HMI) technologies demanded by a new generation of cars, NXP Semiconductors is rolling out its latest series of apps processors dubbed i.MX8.

The new family of processors is based on up to six 64-bit ARM v8-A processor cores. It includes a HiFi 4 DSP, LPDDR4 and DDR4 memory support, in addition to dual Gigabit Ethernet with audio video bridging (AVB) capability.

NXP's i.MX8 promises stunning graphics and a reliable display of critical information. It supports natural speech recognition, audio acceleration and high performance vision processing.

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Hospitals buy as many as six billion wired electrocardiogram (ECG) sensors every year, 4.5 billion of them from two big medical OEMs -- 3M and Covidien. The sensors are sold in small volumes for less than \$20 when paired with increasingly popular disposable lead wires.

Aiming to deliver ease-of-use and patient mobility, HMicro's wireless patch will sell for a small premium over the costs of the wired sensors and wires. "The idea is like how Wi-Fi took hold replacing wired Ethernet, but so far no one developed a targeted platform for this medical application," said chief executive Surendar Magar who founded Athena Semiconductors, a Wi-Fi and TV-tuner startup sold to Broadcom in 2005 for \$21 million.

IBM Weaves New 25G Link

IBM provided more detail on a new 25 Gbit/second interconnect that will link its Power 9 processor to accelerators and next-generation memories. OpenCAPI is a new physical-layer and protocol serving the same functions as 25G interfaces announced earlier this week by the CCIX and Gen-Z groups.

IBM claims OpenCAPI will provide wider bandwidth and lower latency than the alternatives and have a road map that carries it to even higher performance. However, so far OpenCAPI has attracted eight partners compared to about 20 each for CCIX and Gen-Z.

OpenCAPI targets a raw bandwidth of 150-160 GBytes/s about five times that of PCI Express Gen 4 which is the basis of CCIX. The cache-coherent interface should be able to implement load/store memory operations with a round trip latency of about 100 nanoseconds.

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The Snapdragon X50 delivers 5 Gbits/second downlinks and multiple gigabit uplinks for mobile and fixed-wireless networks. It uses a separate LTE connection as an anchor for control signals while the 28 GHz link delivers the higher data rates over distances of tens to hundreds of meters.