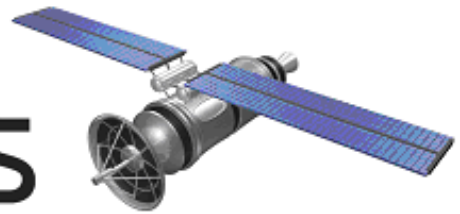


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The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

FH MONDAY

19 December 2016

TSMC Plans New Fab for 3nm

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TALK TO US



China Enters Top Chip Equipment Spenders

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Amazon Invests in MEMS Pioneer

Vesper Technologies Inc. (Boston, MA), a developer of piezoelectric MEMS microphones, has closed a Series A round of funding of \$15 million.

The round was led by Accomplice, a Boston-area venture capital firm focused on early-stage technology companies

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TSMC Plans New Fab for 3nm

TAIPEI — Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) said that it plans to build its next fab for chips made at the 5-nm to 3-nm technology node as early as 2022 as it aims for industry leadership.

As the semiconductor industry consolidates, chipmakers TSMC, Samsung, and Intel are in a tight race to lead process technology development and grab profitable business from fabless customers such as Apple and Qualcomm. TSMC is looking more than five years ahead at a fab site in a new science park planned by the Taiwan government near the city of Kaohsiung, on the southern tip of the island.

Canadian Startup Aims to Connect Everything With Style

Recently founded Canadian startup Ubiqweus Inc. is launching a Kickstarter campaign for a set of super easy to deploy Wi-Fi-enabled one-inch cubic sensors, packaged attractively and made to last.

Of course there are many motes, beacons and sensor nodes on offer out there, so what's the novelty in adding yet another pack of motion, light, temperature and humidity sensors to the market place? We asked Ubiqweus' co-founders Sean Stephens and James Daigle.

"Let me tell you how it all started," said Stephens. "Sitting in an office, there were people complaining about how cold their side of the office was, whilst others were saying they were too warm on the other side, and there was never any consensus reached nor any easy way to monitor the actual temperature across the building. We could have painstakingly logged the temperature the old way, with pen and paper and a thermometer, b

AMD Amps up its AI Play

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Advanced Micro Devices announced plans for a suite of artificial intelligence products including three graphics accelerators boards, four OEM chassis and a stack of open source software. It joins an emerging market where Nvidia has been shipping for some time and Intel and a handful of startups have alternatives in the works.

AMD "is providing competition where there wasn't any before" in GPUs for machine learning, said Kevin Krewell, senior analyst for Tirias Research.

The key is not so much the cards but the software to go with it," Krewell said. "Nvidia got to where it is by providing its Cuda software to help people start coding immediately. AMD was supporting OpenCL but now they have a more compelling solution," he said.

China Enters Top Chip Equipment Spenders

TAIPEI — China, which is making a bid to become one of the world's biggest chipmaking nations, is likely for the first time to be among the top-three spenders on chipmaking equipment in 2016, according to industry association SEMI.

The big spenders this year will be Taiwan, South Korea and China, SEMI said in a press statement released at the annual SEMICON Japan exhibition in Tokyo. China, with a forecast expenditure of \$6.7 billion, will overtake the number-three spot from Japan, coming in at \$4.8 billion, according to SEMI.

Total worldwide spending will increase by 8.7 percent to \$39.7 billion, according to the chip industry association, which also forecast an increase in expenditures on chipmaking equipment in 2017 to \$43.40 billion.

Amazon Invests in MEMS Pioneer

LONDON--Vesper Technologies Inc. (Boston, MA), a developer of piezoelectric MEMS microphones, has closed a Series A round of funding of \$15 million.

The round was led by Accomplice, a Boston-area venture capital firm focused on early-stage technology companies. Vesper also received an investment from Amazon's Alexa Fund, AAC Technologies, Hyperplane, Miraenano Tech, XinGang Electronics and other undisclosed investors.

The Alexa Fund is a \$100 million fund set up by Amazon to further the use of voice as primary user interface to electronic equipment. AAC Technologies is a microphone vendor based in Shenzhen, China.

"We will use our new capital to launch more broadly, in response to the enormous customer demand that we have experienced. We also plan to develop second-generation products, and we will expand operations and distribution," said Matt Crowley, CEO of Vesper, in a statement.