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NEC Bids for Open RAN Leadership

NEC is not the name that immediately comes to mind when discussing the companies driving the concept of the Open RAN. However, that could be changing soon as the Japanese conglomerate spreads its wings and becomes a more serious player in wireless infrastructure.

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WiBotic Software Package Improves Energy Management for Robot Fleets

WiBotic announced the launch of Commander, an energy management software package designed specifically for large fleets of robots. Commander is a platform with the goal of optimizing the energy supply of drones or any battery-powered robot employing WiBotic's charging technology.

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Israeli AI Chip Startup Raises Seed Funding

Israeli AI chip startup NeuReality has raised seed funding of \$8 million to work on its data center AI inference chip and system solution. The company plans to offer an AI platform which enables data centers to easily scale their compute to meet growing AI workloads, while cutting costs, energy bills and footprint.

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TALK TO US



Cerebras Wafer-Scale Chip will Power Scottish Supercomputer

Wafer-scale AI chip startup Cerebras will supply its technology to EPCC, the supercomputing center at the University of Edinburgh, UK. The new hardware, designed specifically to accelerate huge AI workloads, will reduce the time it takes to train large AI models such as natural language processing (NLP) models.

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EVENTS

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-March 2021– London UK

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- Jan 2021– London UK

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SK Hynix Completes Latest Fab

SK Hynix this week dedicated a new semiconductor manufacturing facility, Fab M16, in Icheon, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea. The new fab will be used to produce memory devices, starting with DRAM at the 1nm generation (a 10 nm process). The company expects to start volume production in the latter half of this year.

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Over the last few weeks the company has announced potentially significant deals with two of Telefonica's major European network operators — O2 in the UK, and in Germany.

In both instances, the company is not focusing on being a major hardware supplier, but working with the carriers to trial Open RAN as the primary systems integrator.

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In an interview with EE Times, Ben Waters, CEO and co-founder at WiBotic, pointed out that the adoption of robots is growing, and various organizations are investing heavily in their charging systems. Waters explained how one of the biggest challenges was designing the system to be simple and flexible while also scalable and highly secure.

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Details are scarce on what exactly the company is working on, but a company spokesperson told EE Times that NeuReality is "re-architecting the system solution, hence innovating on all three layers: the chip level, system hardware level and software level." Targeting hyperscalers, solution providers and OEMs means the company must provide solutions at different levels, including the chip level.

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EPCC is installing the new hardware as part of the Edinburgh International Data Facility (EIDF), which brings together datasets from around the world for research and commercial applications. EIDF is part of the University's plan to deliver more industry partnerships in the field of data science. It will enable AI and data science research for public, private and academic sectors across the UK.

"We are proud to announce this audacious infrastructure investment and partnership with the world leaders in AI computing," said Professor Mark Parsons, EPCC director, in a statement. "This installation will enable massive breakthroughs in our vision for data science and greatly accelerate our research across genomics and public health, including time-sensitive and pressing issues such as leveraging AI across large models to advance Covid-19 therapeutic research."

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The company said M16 will be its first fab installed with deep EUV lithography equipment, which will give the company the potential to eventually push ahead to nodes smaller than 10nm. With 57,000 square meters of floor space, M16 is SK Hynix's largest manufacturing facility in the world.

The company expects to also use this facility to create products that target growth markets and to devise new products. As an example, it said it plans to increase the proportion of high-value-added DRAM products such as HBM2E it produces to cater to the growing high-performance computing (HPC) and artificial intelligence (AI) markets.