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PlasticArm SoC Puts Arm Cortex-M0 on Flexible Substrate

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TALK TO US

Wooptix Introduces Wafer Geometry System for 300mm Blank Silicon Wafers

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Dialog's Zero Voltage Switching Enables High Power Density

Dialog Semiconductor has announced the availability of its digital Zero Voltage Switching (ZVS) chipset to enable the development of high-power density power supplies of over 100 W in a small size.

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Advantest Broadens Activities in India

Semiconductor test equipment supplier Advantest Corp. has rebranded its subsidiary in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India under the corporate mantle and will expand its support of customer initiatives in the region as investments continue to grow.

Effective June 18, 2021, w2bi Mobile Technologies Pvt. Ltd (WMTI) became Advantest India Private Ltd (AIN), a wholly owned subsidiary of Advantest America Inc. The name change will allow Advantest to promote its brand and naming convention across subsidiaries and around the globe. The company sees this as a critical step toward achieving its strategic goal of supporting customers in regions throughout the world.

In 2013, Advantest America acquired w2bi (W2BI) and its wholly owned subsidiary WMTI, a developer of software exclusively for W2BI. In 2020, Advantest America merged W2BI and WMTI remained a subsidiary of Advantest America. Under its new name, Advantest India Private Ltd will contribute to the development of software for a variety of business units within Advantest, including the SoC business unit.

Untether Completes $125 Million Funding Round

Canadian data center AI chip startup Untether has completed a $125-million round of funding led by Tracker Capital Management, and co-led by Intel Capital with participation from Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Radical Ventures. As part of the funding round, Tracker Capital senior advisor Shaygan Kheradpir will join Untether's board of directors.

"[The funding] is going to support our customer engagements that are ongoing — we've had very positive response from the marketplace," Arun Iyengar, Untether CEO told EE Times. "It's to make sure that we have the right level of software and customer experience support for the particular neural networks that our customers want to run."

PlasticArm SoC Puts Arm Cortex-M0 on Flexible Substrate

A paper published this week in Nature by Arm Research and Cambridge UK-based PragmatIC revealed details of PlasticArm, a flexible Arm Cortex-M0 based system-on-chip (SoC) fabricated using thin-film transistors (TFT) on a flexible substrate.

While this is not yet a commercial solution, it has significant potential for embedding microprocessors, and hence intelligence, into many more everyday products. A co-author of the paper, John Biggs, a distinguished engineer at Arm Research, said of the development, "As ultra-low-cost microprocessors become commercially viable, all sort of markets will open with interesting use cases such as smart sensors, smart labels and intelligent packaging. Products using these devices could help with sustainability by reducing food waste and promote the circular economy with smart life-cycle tracking. Personally, I think that the biggest impact could be in healthcare — this technology really lends itself to building intelligent disposable health monitoring systems that can be applied directly to the skin."

Wooptix Introduces Wafer Geometry System for 300mm Blank Silicon Wafers

Wooptix SL, a Spanish company dedicated to developing new imaging solutions, has introduced Phemet® lab system, a 300mm blank silicon wafer geometry system collecting millions of topography data points on a full wafer in a few seconds. Based in La Laguna Tenerife, Canary Islands, the company is founded on decades of optical research done at the astrophysics department at La Lagune University in conjunction with Teide Observatory in Tenerife, one of the world's most important astronomy research centers. Series A funding in 2016 from venture firms including Intel Capital has allowed the company to develop Phemet and bring it to commercialization for semiconductor the lab market.

Dialog's Zero Voltage Switching Enables High Power Density for Power Supplies

Dialog Semiconductor has announced the availability of its digital Zero Voltage Switching (ZVS) chipset to enable the development of high-power density power supplies of over 100 W in a small size. The current challenge in AC/DC converters is associated with thermal constraints on system efficiency. The goal of the proprietary ZVS technology is to reduce the size and keep the BOM cost low to enable smaller and lighter power supplies.

In an interview with EE Times Europe, Tony Lai, director of marketing AC/DC Products, Dialog Semiconductor, highlighted Dialog's ZVS, or zero voltage switching, technology which is used to reduce switching losses of the power supply significantly.

This patented approach intelligently adapts the ZVS control to the overall circuit conditions," commented Lai. "This enables high efficiency over the load and input voltage ranges, especially when combined with Dialog's adaptive multi-mode control and helps designers create 30% to 50% smaller form factor, high power density PSUs."