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The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

FH MONDAY

5 December 2022

6G Research Center in U.K. Working to Secure Funding

6G Futures, the center for research, education, and innovation that King's College, the University of Bristol, and the University of Strathclyde established a bit longer than a year ago, is formally seeking funding from the U.K.'s ministry for digital media and culture and the U.K. Research Council,

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Samsung to buy car tech firm Harman for \$8bn

Samsung Electronics announced a \$8bn deal yesterday to buy Harman International Industries, marking a major push into the auto electronics market and the biggest overseas acquisition ever by a South Korean firm.

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TI Expands Rad-Hard Portfolio

Texas Instruments Inc. (TI) has expanded its portfolio of space-grade analog semiconductor products in highly reliable plastic packages for a diverse range of missions. TI developed a new device screening specification called space high-grade in plastic (SHP) for radiation-hardened products and introduced new analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) that meet the SHP qualification.

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TALK TO US



NXP AFE Enables the Software-defined Factory

Designed as software-configurable universal analog input devices, NXP Semiconductors' new NXP analog front-end (N-AFE) family for high-precision data acquisition and condition monitoring systems for factory automation helps enable the software-defined factory, making it easier for operators to configure a smart factory and adjust settings based on shifting market needs.

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Intel and Rakuten partner to boost 5G ORAN

A key dynamic taking place in the wireless market is the move away from fixed-purpose infrastructure equipment that has powered wireless networks for many years, and into the use of general purpose hardware that can be programmed for specific functionality.

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6G Research Center in U.K. Working to Secure Funding

LONDON—6G Futures, the center for research, education, and innovation that King's College, the University of Bristol, and the University of Strathclyde established a bit longer than a year ago, is formally seeking funding from the U.K.'s ministry for digital media and culture and the U.K. Research Council, Toktam Mahmoodi, professor in communications engineering, and Director of Centre for Telecommunications Research at King's Department of Engineering, told EE Times.

While several European countries have "already shaped centers of excellence around 6G research, and the U.K. was lacking that, she said. "Now, there is good momentum in the U.K."

Samsung To Buy Car Tech Firm Harman For \$8bn

Samsung Electronics announced a \$8bn deal yesterday to buy Harman International Industries, marking a major push into the auto electronics market and the biggest overseas acquisition ever by a South Korean firm.

The electronics giant previously shunned big acquisitions, and the latest deal underscores a strategic shift as the company tries to break into the high-barrier automotive industry where it has little track record.

"An M&A deal this big is a first for us.

But it shows that under Jay Y Lee, the company is changing and open to new ways to grow," a source familiar with the deal told Reuters, referring to Samsung Electronics' vice chairman.

The purchase of the Stamford, Connecticut-based maker of connected car and audio systems is part of Samsung's efforts to find new areas of growth as its mainstay smartphone business – scarred by the disastrous withdrawal of the fire-prone Galaxy Note 7 – slows.

TI Expands Rad-Hard Portfolio

Texas Instruments Inc. (TI) has expanded its portfolio of space-grade analog semiconductor products in highly reliable plastic packages for a diverse range of missions.

TI developed a new device screening specification called space high-grade in plastic (SHP) for radiation-hardened products and introduced new analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) that meet the SHP qualification. TI also introduced new product families to the radiation-tolerant Space Enhanced Plastic (Space EP) portfolio. Compared to traditional ceramic packages, plastic packages offer a smaller footprint that enables designers to reduce system-level size, weight and power, and thus help reduce launch costs.

In the past, space applications and programs used hermetically sealed, ceramic Qualified Manufacturers List (QML) Class V devices to ensure reliability.

NXP AFE Enables the Software-defined Factory

Designed as software-configurable universal analog input devices, NXP Semiconductors' new NXP analog front-end (N-AFE) family for high-precision data acquisition and condition monitoring systems for factory automation helps enable the software-defined factory, making it easier for operators to configure a smart factory and adjust settings based on shifting market needs.

Even as factories have become smarter over time, adapting to rapidly shifting market trends has remained a challenge, often requiring large-scale equipment overhauls to reconfigure a factory to meet a new need. The addition of software-configurable components allows factory operators to be more nimble, enabling them to more quickly and easily make changes to the factory floor to address rapidly shifting trends.

Intel and Rakuten partner to boost 5G ORAN:

A key dynamic taking place in the wireless market is the move away from fixed-purpose infrastructure equipment that has powered wireless networks for many years, and into the use of general purpose hardware that can be programmed for specific functionality.

This move to open, standardized hardware, boosted with some accelerators for necessary wireless functions, has led to a virtualized environment for 5G similar to the movement to open, software defined networks that have been in place in enterprises and in the cloud for several years. Much like modern data centers and cloud-enabled modern workloads, virtualization has arrived in the carrier infrastructure as a viable and preferred platform despite some early doubters.