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AMD teams with Chinese juggernaut ECARX on in-vehicle computing

AMD has landed a major Chinese partner that plans to leverage the company's Ryzen processors and Radeon GPUs as part of a full-stack, in-vehicle computing platform for electric vehicles scheduled for rollout late next year.

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Micron plans \$40B in memory plants on heels of CHIPS Act

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TALK TO US



Nextspace to help Nvidia enable digital twin federation

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Roaring inflation hits smartphone, tablet markets in 2Q

Ironically, the U.S. government just approved a massive influx of cash to boost domestic chip production in the CHIPS Act even as global electronics demand is in a downturn. Of course, none of the fabs supported by the government largesse will be built and operational for years and by then consumer buying trends for smartphones, tablets and a range of electronics could have reversed the current market

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Future Horizons Ltd, • 44 Bethel Road • Sevenoaks • Kent TN13 3UE • England

Tel: +44 1732 740440 • Fax: +44 1732 740442

e-mail: mail@futurehorizons.com • <http://www.futurehorizons.com/>

Affiliates in Europe, India, Israel, Japan, Russian, San Jose California, USA

Nexar To Acquire Veniam To Leverage Vehicle Vision Sensor Data

Nexar, an AI mobility company that is crowdsourcing vision sensor data from vehicles on the road to feed a variety of services and road safety capabilities, has agreed to acquire Veniam, a Portuguese software firm with wireless mesh technology for connecting vehicles to one another and to the internet.

Vehicles on the road increasingly are being compared to computers or even data centers, but key to this acquisition is the notion of vehicles increasingly becoming data engines. Israel-based Nexar provides vision sensing through dash-cams that can capture crowdsourced, anonymized data “from billions of miles of driving” with the aim of creating a “digital twin of America’s roads and cities,” the company said in a statement

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AMD has landed a major Chinese partner that plans to leverage the company’s Ryzen processors and Radeon GPUs as part of a full-stack, in-vehicle computing platform for electric vehicles scheduled for rollout late next year.

The new strategic collaboration is with ECARX, described in an AMD press release as a global mobility tech company, but more significantly is backed by China-based automotive giant Zhejiang Geely Holding Group and has plans to go public in a massive SPAC merger announced a few months ago.

ECARX reportedly has ambitions to challenge China’s Huawei in the vehicle computing business. It already has seen its technology deployed in 3.2 million cars across 12 brands. The company is crafting a digital cockpit that will be the first in-vehicle platform to use AMD Ryzen Embedded V2000 processors and AMD Radeon RX 6000 Series GPUs along with ECARX hardware and software, AMD and ECARX said in a statement.

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“With the anticipated grants and credits made possible by the CHIPS and Science Act, this investment will enable the world’s most advanced memory manufacturing in America,” Micron said in a statement on Tuesday.

Production will begin in the second half of the decade and ultimately produce up to 40,000 new American jobs including 5,000 highly paid technical and operational roles at Micron, the company said.

“The legislation will enable Micron to grow domestic production of memory from less than 2% to up to 10% of the global market in the next decade, making the U.S. home to the most advanced memory manufacturing and R&D in the world,” said Micron President and CEO Sanjay Mehrotra.

President Joe Biden signed the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

Nextspace to help Nvidia enable digital twin federation

Nvidia recently announced an effort to expand industrial metaverse applications, and a major element in that effort will be the company’s partnership with Nextspace, a self-described metaverse “plumbing” firm providing cloud-based platform-as-a-service solutions to support federation of realistic, industrial digital twins in Nvidia’s Omniverse environment, and greater interoperability between digital twins.

Nextspace COO Paul Shale told Fierce Electronics by email that the company, which showed off its technology at Nvidia’s GTC Spring conference earlier this year, will help digital twins created using Nvidia’s Omniverse platform interoperable with other digital twin environments, which could spur more rapid growth in digital twins spanning global companies and industry ecosystems.

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Of course, none of the fabs supported by the government largesse will be built and operational for years and by then consumer buying trends for smartphones, tablets and a range of electronics could have reversed the current market slowing. (And then have been up and down for many quarters to come.)

Still, it was distressing to read smartphone shipments declined for the fourth consecutive quarter in the second quarter, while tablet shipments were flat, and Chromebooks tanked.

The main culprit for lessening demand was inflation, but other factors impacting total shipments included a war in Ukraine and supply shortages due to continued restrictions in China due to Covid. For analysts forecasting electronics, the market and supply chain is truly global, not regional, and certainly not dependent on what happens in the U.S. alone.