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The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

FH MONDAY

21 January 2019

AWS Invests in Qualcomm-Backed Semiconductor

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Open-Silicon & SiFive to Chisel RISC-V in India

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TALK TO US



Novel DRAM Tapped for Edge AI

LAS VEGAS — Over the last few decades, the DRAM industry has single-mindedly followed a single roadmap in pursuit of higher-density memories, beginning with asynchronous DRAM and evolving to DDR5 synchronous DRAM.

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"Military-Grade" Anti-Drone Tech for UK Airports?

The increasing availability of drones have finally prompted two major international airports, the U.K.'s Heathrow and Gatwick, to procure anti-drone systems. While these moves may signal a boon for counter-drone technology, they also underscore the danger of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) use in restricted air space.

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AWS Invests In Qualcomm-Backed Semiconductor Startup

(Bloomberg) -- Amazon Web Services has invested in Wiliot Inc., an Israel and San Diego-based semiconductor company that focuses on wireless technology that tracks the location of goods during manufacturing.

Wiliot has closed a \$30 million Series B funding round, with investment coming from AWS, Samsung Venture Investment Corp. and Avery Dennison Corp., the company said in a statement Monday.

The company, founded in 2017, plans to announce a battery-free bluetooth sticker-sized sensor tag, which it says can be embedded in the production phase of consumer goods. The disposable products, still in testing, will allow real-time tracking throughout the manufacturing process, and potentially applied to clothes to connect with washing machines to the right spin cycle is applied.

Vehicle Perception Engine Makes Autonomous Driving Safer

Israeli startup Vayavision has launched a software-based autonomous vehicle environmental perception engine which upscales raw data from camera, lidar and radar sensors to provide what it claims is a more accurate 3D model than object fusion-based platforms.

The company's CEO, Ronny Cohen, told EETimes that today's object-led fusion of sensor data is not reliable and can lead to objects being missed. Roads are full of unexpected objects that are absent from training data sets, even when those sets are captured while travelling millions of kilometers.

Cohen said most current generation autonomous driving solutions are based on object fusion, in which each sensor registers an independent object, and then reconciles which data is correct. This can provide inaccurate detections and result in a high rate of false alarms — and ultimately accidents.

Open-Silicon & SiFive To Chisel RISC-V In India

When Naveed Sherwani and Satya Gupta founded Open-Silicon, a semiconductor solutions company in 2003 with the idea of an open model in the hardware world, a free and open instruction set architecture (ISA) called RISC-V was nowhere on the horizon.

Fifteen years later and after its acquisition by SiFive last year, it was just natural that RISC-V, which has created a disruption in the industry with its open model, would pave the way forward for this Bangalore-based company, also known for its OpenModel custom SoCs.

Open-Silicon's "OpenModel" was one of the first semiconductor industry's first end-to-end custom SoC development solution based on a revolutionary business model that provides a seamless, low-cost, and low-risk alternative to traditional models for complex ASIC design and development.

Novel DRAM Tapped For Edge AI

LAS VEGAS — Over the last few decades, the DRAM industry has single-mindedly followed a single roadmap in pursuit of higher-density memories, beginning with asynchronous DRAM and evolving to DDR5 synchronous DRAM.

In contrast, Etron Technology (Hsinchu, Taiwan) revealed at the Consumer Electronics Show that instead of following the conventional path, it's charting an alternative roadmap with a brand-new DRAM architecture called "Reduced Pin Count" (RPC) DRAM.

Etron CEO Nicky Lu argued that the proposed RPC DRAM, which uses only half the pins, can both drive miniaturization and cut cost. He pitched PRC DRAM as ideal for miniaturized wearable devices and end-point AI subsystems. With DDR4, many companies designing small wearable devices today must buy more than they need, Lu added. "For many designers of small systems, DDR4 is an overkill."

"Military-Grade" Anti-Drone Tech For UK Airports?

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Canada has recently released new, stricter guidelines for commercial drone use; the U.S., the EU and China also have regulations in place. Since 2017, at least three drone-plane collisions have been reported, and there have been numerous instances of near misses.

Gatwick suffered a spate of drone sightings in a three-day period leading up to the 2018 Christmas holiday, according to Reuters. The airport cancelled more than 1,000 flights in late December, impacting 140,000 air travelers. The local police force reported UAV sightings from 115 witnesses, including airport staff, police officers and a pilot.