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The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

FH MONDAY

21 September 2020

Intel, ADI Offer Platform for Open 5G Radio Units

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Global semiconductor race speeding up

THE race to acquire Silterra Malaysia Sdn Bhd should not come as a surprise. The global semiconductor industry has entered a golden age, largely thanks to the US-China trade war and the increased digitalisation of just about everything from mobile phones, cars to refrigerators.

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SiFive Appoints CEO from Qualcomm Automotive

SiFive announced the appointment of Patrick Little as its new president and CEO. Little left Qualcomm's automotive business to succeed Naveed Sherwani. Sherwani will remain as chairman of the board of directors of SiFive and other overseas subsidiaries such as StarFive in China.

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TALK TO US



FCC Approval for WiBotic's Wireless Charging System

WiBotic has announced it obtained authorization from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its 300W high power transmitters and receivers for wireless charging of drones, mobile robots, and other commercial/industrial battery-powered devices operated in the U.S.

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Ericsson Warns that Open RAN Compromises

Just as the open RAN concept is gaining traction -- with more and more operators around the world rolling out limited networks and others finalizing trials; an exciting roll-call of component and systems suppliers joining the party;

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The 5G standards body, 3GPP, is working to enable the virtualization and disaggregation of the radio access network (RAN). Analog Devices (ADI) and Intel said they are collaborating on a scalable platform to enable this new software-centric architecture.

The new radio platform combines ADI's software-defined radio frequency (RF) transceiver technology with the high performance and low power of Intel's Arria 10 field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), offering developers a new set of design tools to optimize the designs of open-system 5G remote radio units (O-RU). In the proposed configuration, open RUs would connect to the network through open distributed units, or O-DUs.

Global Semiconductor Race Speeding Up

Meanwhile, as the largest consumer of semiconductors, China faces a supply-demand mismatch and hence is forced to rely significantly on external supply.

The trade tensions with the United States has only made the situation worse, and as a result, China is now aggressively looking to develop its domestic chip-making landscape to make the country self-sufficient.

What this means is that while China will be ramping up its semiconductor making capacity domestically, there are also chances for companies from the country to set up operations externally to feed the huge demand for chips. THE race to acquire Silterra Malaysia Sdn Bhd should not come as a surprise.

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Little led Qualcomm's expansion into the automotive industry as senior vice president and general manager. With a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from San Jose State University, he has over 30 years of operating experience in executive roles in the technology and semiconductor industries, including CEO of eASIC Corp, senior vice president of CSR Technology, and senior vice president at Xilinx.

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WiBotic has announced it obtained authorization from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its 300W high power transmitters and receivers for wireless charging of drones, mobile robots, and other commercial/industrial battery-powered devices operated in the U.S. WiBotic is working to obtain other certificates allowing similar approvals of their products in other countries.

As Ben Waters, CEO of WiBotic, points out, this certification represents a transition point in the industry as, in the past, only low-power cell phone and high-power battery chargers for electric vehicles had been approved for such a widespread use. WiBotic's technology allows drones and medium-sized robots to be recharged quickly, thus making it possible to use drone and robot technology for various industrial applications such as transport and safety.

Ericsson Warns that Open RAN Compromises Security

Just as the open RAN concept is gaining traction — with more and more operators around the world rolling out limited networks and others finalizing trials; an exciting roll-call of component and systems suppliers joining the party; and market analysts poring over the numbers and coming up with ambitious and perhaps overly enthusiastic projections — along comes Ericsson to dampen the mood.

The Swedish group has issued the wireless infrastructure sector a stern warning that the underlying technology could be inherently insecure.

Perhaps we should not be completely surprised. Ericsson is not far behind arch-rival Huawei with its reservations about the whole concept of "openness" for next generation mobile networks, and clearly has serious concerns about the wave of support for its alternative to the established set-up for the radio access network (RAN).