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The Global Semiconductor Industry Analysts

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IoT: We're Not Keeping up With Security Threats

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Covid-19: Companies Prepare for Fallout

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XMOS adapts Xcore into AIoT 'crossover processor'

BRISTOL, UK — XMOS has adapted its Xcore processor core for machine learning, creating a crossover processor for AIoT applications. The Xcore.ai will be available from \$1.

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Dialog Semiconductor is to acquire Adesto Technologies, a provider of ICs and embedded systems for the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) market, in a deal that values the business at \$500million.

The acquisition of Adesto will help to accelerate Dialog's expansion into the growing IIoT market that enables smart buildings and industrial automation (Industry 4.0). Adesto, which is headquartered in Santa Clara, California, has 270 employees and an established portfolio of industrial solutions for smart building automation that complements Dialog's manufacturing automation products. Adesto's solutions are sold across the industrial, consumer, medical, and communications markets.

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Renesas Electronics is to license secure ultra-wideband (UWB) technology from Switzerland-based fabless semiconductor company 3db Access. The companies announced this week they have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and are working on the terms of the collaboration agreement.

Spurred by the intensity of interest in UWB technology since the launch of Apple's iPhone last year, the two companies have mutual interest in working together. Having UWB in smartphones, Renesas believes, can lead to expanding the use of UWB to add secure access capability to connected smart homes, internet of things (IoT), industry 4.0, mobile computing, and connected vehicle applications. And 3db Access, with design wins already in production cars via key fob suppliers Hella and Marquardt, will look to further develop its technology and new multi-receiver UWB chips.

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Not a single company exhibiting at DesignCon in Santa Clara highlighted their contributions to designing for security, probably because none of them are. The show organizers did bring in Silicon Valley chip-design luminary Warren Savage to deliver a keynote on the subject. Savage is currently a visiting researcher at the University of Maryland for DARPA programs in the area of intelligence and security and in his one year at the job he has come to believe that Silicon Valley engineers and their companies are completely clueless about how bad the situation is.

Covid-19: Companies Prepare For Fallout

In China the scheduled holiday got extended in response to a viral outbreak, and so the holiday-related lull in production was unexpectedly extended. Chinese companies are still in the fitful process of ramping production back up, and the world is still trying to evaluate how severe the disruption due to the epidemic will be. We surveyed high-tech companies around the world to find out what they are experiencing right now.

Right now, most of the companies we surveyed report they're dealing with delays of one sort or another. Given the potential for havoc in the supply chain, scattered delays can be considered good news. The virus has not yet been reported contained, and so there's really no way of telling if the resulting effects on global business are going to get better or get worse.

XMOS adapts Xcore into AIoT 'Crossover Processor'

BRISTOL, UK — XMOS has adapted its Xcore processor core for machine learning, creating a crossover processor for AIoT applications. The Xcore.ai will be available from \$1.

Xcore.ai, the third generation of products built on the company's proprietary core design, is designed for real-time AI inference and decision-making in endpoint devices, and can also handle signal processing, control and communications functions.

New to this third-generation chip is a vector pipeline capability for machine learning applications. It is the only crossover processor of its type to support binarized (1-bit) neural networks, which are growing in importance for ultra-low power AI in the endpoint applications as they offer order-of-magnitude improvement in performance and memory density traded for a modest reduction in accuracy (the Xcore.ai also supports 32-bit, 16-bit and 8-bit numbers).