

Semiconductor Insider

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Industry News

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Big Picture Potential

Couch Potato Season is heating up. The thermostat is plunging and holiday shoppers are eyeing this year's lineup of new products that will keep them and their loved ones glued to their La-Z-Boys. What they'll find is high-definition everything: gaming consoles, camcorders, DVD players. But none of these graphically stunning gadgets will be fully appreciated without a brand new high-def television set to show them off.

"Top Fab of the Year" Award Goes to Texas Instruments

The editors at Semiconductor International have given their 2006 "Top Fab of the Year" award to Texas Instruments DMOS6, a 300mm fab in Dallas, TX. A key reason for DMOS6 winning the award was the fab's ability to embrace multiple technology nodes in tandem production while also developing immersion lithography processes. What makes this more remarkable is that this fab was one of the first 300mm fabs to be built and entered production in 2002. Congrats to the entire fab team on their success!

China Chipmakers Eye New Fabs

Many of the major chip makers in China are dusting off plans for a new round of fab building, but finding the capital to do so remains an issue. Grace Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp., He Jian Technology Co. Ltd, Hua Hong Semiconductor and even Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. are interested in new construction, but are scrambling for capital. SMIC does plan on substantially expanding capacity at its 300mm fab in Beijing, and Grace plans to begin equipping its second 200mm module in its existing fab.

Chipmakers to Build Fabs in Hsinchu Park

Powerchip Semiconductor Corp., Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd, and Vanguard International Semiconductor Inc. will all be building new fabs in Hsinchu Science Park in Taiwan. PSC and TSMC will each build 12-inch fabs, while VIS has yet to reveal if it will set up an 8 or 12-inch facility.

Intel to Raise Vietnam Investments from \$300M to \$1B

Intel Corp. announced plans to increase the area of the assembly and test facility it is building in Vietnam as well as raise its investment in the country from the \$300 million announced earlier this year to \$1 billion. Upon completion, the new Vietnam facility will be Intel's seventh and largest single factory within its assembly and test network. Construction is expected to begin in March. Production will start in 2009 instead of Intel's earlier plan which was for 2008. The facility is projected to employ about 4,000 people.

Hua Hong NEC Drops 300mm Wafer Plans, Goes for 200mm

Hua Hong NEC is canceling their plans for a 300mm wafer fab in Shanghai, opting instead to put up a 200mm wafer line. Few details were given regarding the change. Originally, the company planned to set up a pilot line running 3,000 to 5,000 wafers per month by year's end. The 300mm wafer fab was part of a larger vision of transforming Hua Hong Group into an international caliber IDM.

Digital Music Market to Reach Nearly \$14.9 Billion by 2010

The global market for digital recorded music, delivered both via broadband and over mobile-phone networks, is expected to grow by nearly six-fold during the period from 2005 to 2010, iSuppli Corp. predicts.

Xerox Invents Self-Erasing Paper

Since many e-mails and documents are printed out for brief viewing and then soon discarded or recycled, Xerox invented printing technology that creates images that last only a day. The technology, dubbed Erasable Paper, could lead to a significant reduction in the amount of paper used in an office, because once the image fades away, the paper can be used over and over.

Introducing... NSTAR Search

NSTAR is happy to announce we have expanded our services to include permanent placement through our newest division, NSTAR Search. Clients can eliminate the guesswork in hiring by allowing us to source, screen, and select the best in Semiconductor Industry experienced candidates, presenting you with only those that are a suitable match with your opportunities. This addition means that NSTAR is now fully capable of handling all of your hiring needs, from contract, to temp-to-perm, to permanent positions. To learn more about NSTAR Search, please contact Tim McGuinness, (919) 553-8412 x 105, or tmcguinness@nstargs.com.

As a job seeker, this new division will benefit you because NSTAR can now work to find you permanent positions as well, giving you exposure to a larger number of career opportunities! To learn more, please contact Dina Szary, (877) 678-2766 x 106.

FuN Fact

Did You Know...

The cost of 1 gigabyte of computer memory has changed significantly over time. Prices listed in USD.

- 1956 \$10 million
- 1980 \$233,000
- 1990 \$7,700
- 2000 \$13.30
- 2006 \$1

Sources: ALTS LLC and PC World. Figures not adjusted for inflation.

N-Quotes

My first assignment with NSTAR was also my first trip to Asia, and I loved it! Korea was a little rough at first since I didn't speak the language, but after a month I was communicating, ordering food, getting taxis, taking the subway...I had it down.

I quickly became addicted to working and traveling all over Asia, and opted to take 2 more install jobs in Asia, one right after the other. After Korea, I went to Malaysia, and then to Singapore. After it all, I spent about 9 consecutive months in Asia for NSTAR. After 2 weeks of relaxing at home, NSTAR offered me a job in Israel which was another place I had never been.

I've been back working in the States for almost 2 years now, and to be honest, I am ready to go back to Asia or Europe and see some more of this fantastic world. I love my job. I'm doing what I was trained to do, getting paid good money, and get to see the world. Does life get any better?
-Mark Brooks

I felt, and continue to feel, that NSTAR not only considered my needs and desires, but truly exceeded them, when they found the right position to match my skills and experience. I now work for NSTAR as a Resource Engineer out in the field.

I have worked other semicon contracts through other employers, and I can honestly say that there is no comparison. NSTAR treats me so well, I think I'm being spoiled!

I feel that the entire process, recruiting-wise, was handled very professionally. The office support has been top notch. Any issues that I have had have been resolved quickly, which allows me to concentrate on the job at hand, be more efficient, and provide better results.
- Robert Madrid

We welcome questions, comments, and suggestions.

NSTAR
WE GET THE JOB DONE®

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