

Industry News (click title to view original source.)

[Semiconductor Inventories Swell to Alarming Level](#)

In Q4 2010, global semiconductor inventories surged to their highest level in two-and-a-half years. This inflated level of inventory could become a concern if semiconductor industry growth falls short of expectations in 2011.

The current 2011 forecast calls for revenue growth of 5.6 percent, which should be manageable. However, if growth is lower, the high inventories could cause chip prices to decline faster than normal, and could amplify the size and duration of a downturn in the market.

[Freescale Technology Predicts Battery Failure](#)

Freescale recently rolled out an intelligent battery sensor for cars that automatically checks a battery's health and warns the motorist when it is about to fail. The sensor is Freescale's effort to bring the common lead-acid battery up to par electronically with other advancements in automotive functions.

[bTendo, STMicroelectronics to Develop Smartphone Projector](#)

bTendo Ltd. has signed a development and license agreement with STMicroelectronics to jointly develop the world's smallest Pico Projector for smartphones and other portable consumer-electronics devices. Sources close to bTendo estimate potential revenue from the agreement at tens of millions of dollars over the next few years.

[Freescale Named "Official Automotive Semiconductor of NASCAR"](#)

NASCAR has announced a historic technology partnership with Freescale Semiconductor and McLaren Electronic Systems to develop and integrate fuel injection systems into the Sprint Cup Series, targeted for the 2012 season. Freescale's processors will manage the fuel and ignition systems in the engines for all Cup Series cars, replacing carburetors which have been used in the series since its inception in 1949.

[NXP Brings Wallet to Smartphones](#)

ZTE is incorporating NXP Semiconductor's Near Field Communications (NFC) PN544 technology in its new line of global smartphones and feature phones, such as Android-based devices. NFC-enabled phones offer consumers applications such as secure payment-on-the-go, mobile transactions and convenient access public transport. ZTE handsets with NFC are said to be available in Q2 2011.

[Microprocessor Made with Organic Semiconductors](#)

European researchers have introduced the world's first microprocessor made with organic semiconductors. The 4000-transistor, 8-bit logic circuit has the processing power of only a 1970s-era silicon model, but it can bend. Wrapped around pipes, for example, sheets of sensors with these processors could record average water pressure, and wrapped around food and pharmaceuticals, they might indicate that your tuna is rancid or that you forgot to take your pills.

[MStar Semiconductor Making Low-end Phones Even Cheaper](#)

MStar Semiconductor anticipates a boom in its handset chips as the 9-year-old firm uses a rack of patents and its traditional made-in-Taiwan edge: low manufacturing costs that translate to lower prices for end users.

Poorer countries such as China and India, where young populations need phones but cannot always afford the latest US\$300-\$750 model, as well as wealthier regions of East Asia, where older people do not always want to master smartphones, are expected to increase demand for basic handsets.

[Solar3D Utilizes Semiconductor to Enable Mass Production](#)

The key to the successful low cost fabrication of the 3D solar cells is that Solar3D, Inc. can use existing semiconductor manufacturing facilities and machines. The company's innovative solar cell technology utilizes a 3D design to trap sunlight inside micro-photovoltaic structures where photons bounce around until they are converted into electrons.

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- DK, Texas

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1 Year - Austin, TX - #1976

Resource Engineer - AMAT Producer CVD
Various Lengths - Worldwide Travel - #1929

Resource Engineer - Hitachi S4000
2 months - Netherlands - #1979

Resource Engineer - AMAT Endura PVD
Various Lengths - Worldwide Travel - #1927

Resource Engineer - MRC Star Eclipse
3-9 Months - International Travel - #1974

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New Construction

(click title to view original.)

[Intel to Invest \\$5B in New Arizona Plant](#)

Intel announced plans to build a \$5 billion factory in Arizona that could bring in at least 1,000 permanent jobs in addition to thousands of construction jobs. Construction is expected to begin near the middle of this year and be completed in 2013.

[ON Semiconductor plans \\$30 million expansion](#)

ON Semiconductor plans to invest more than \$30 million to expand its Gresham wafer manufacturing facility. The expansion, is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2011.

Job Seeker Insight

(click title to view original source.)

[5 Ways to Treat Your Job Search like Facebook](#)

Not only has Facebook become a major source of checking about potential employees, it is a great guide on how to apply for a job. In this article, learn how to treat job hunting in the same way you use Facebook.

[10 Ways to Get Noticed on Job Portals](#)

Job portals are becoming a great source to get you that dream job, but just registering yourself on job sites will not get you a job. The following 10 ways explain how to make your resume visible to potential employers and land that dream job.

[5 Sales Tactics to Use for Your Next Interview](#)

Interviews are often intimidating, but they can get a lot less stressful (and more successful) if you develop a salesman's approach to handling them. Try these five tips and watch your batting average soar.

[More Job Seeker Tips at www.nstargs.com](http://www.nstargs.com)

Changes (click title to view original.)

[ON Semiconductor buys Cypress](#)

ON Semiconductor has completed the roughly \$31.4 million acquisition of Cypress Semiconductor Corp.'s image-sensor business. The purchase of Cypress' CMOS image-sensor unit makes ON one of the top 10 image-sensor suppliers worldwide.

[IR acquires CHiL Semiconductor](#)

International Rectifier (IR) has acquired CHiL Semiconductor Corporation for \$75 million in cash. The acquisition adds a leading digital power management platform that improves energy efficiency in a wide variety of applications, including computing systems, graphics, servers and gaming.

[NuPGA Corporation Now Monolithic 3D™ Inc](#)

NuPGA Corporation has changed its name to Monolithic 3D™ Inc. The company incorporated in 2009 with the mission to develop better Programmable Logic technology with density, speed, and power approaching ASICs.

Ntertainment:

off the mark

by Mark Parisi

www.offthemark.com



Other News of Nterest

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[UPS Buys Natural Gas 'Green' Vehicles](#)

United Parcel Service Inc. has purchased heavy tractor trucks equipped to run on liquefied natural gas (LNG), a cleaner-burning alternative to traditional diesel-powered engines. The Atlanta-based company will use the vehicles to replace older trucks in its fleet. Currently, UPS has 1,914 vehicles that operate on alternative fuel.

["Nanoworm" May Soon Benefit Diabetics](#)

Researchers at MIT and Northeastern University, in Boston, have developed a nanoparticle that could be implanted under the skin in order to provide continuous readings of glucose levels allowing diabetics to avoid the finger-stick several times a day.

[Technology Keeps Gen Y from Getting Sleep](#)

Generation Y is reportedly more sleepy than Generation X or Baby Boomers, partially due to their extensive use of technology, according to a report released by the National Sleep Foundation.

Doctors believe that exposure to the light-emitting screens between dusk and the time you go to bed suppresses release of the sleep-promoting hormone melatonin and enhances alertness making it more difficult to fall asleep.

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