

Industry News: What's Happening Around the Globe?

Hewlett Packard Enterprise is Moving Headquarters to Texas From Silicon Valley

Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co., one of the founding companies of Silicon Valley, plans to relocate its headquarters to Houston from San Jose after years of waning technology industry dominance that came with the rise of newer businesses focused on mobile and internet-based computing. The company — which makes servers, storage hardware and networking gear — said Tuesday that it is already building a “state of the art” campus in Houston, the fourth-largest U.S. city. HPE also reported quarterly revenue that topped analysts’ predictions, suggesting that businesses are upgrading their data center hardware during the COVID-19 pandemic. The company will keep its technology innovation hub in San Jose, at a relatively new building, Chief Executive Antonio Neri said on a conference call with analysts. Administrative work will be centered at the new Texas headquarters.

Avnet Names Phil Gallagher Chief Executive Officer

Avnet has named 37-year Avnet veteran Phil Gallagher as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Mr. Gallagher, who has been in the role of interim CEO of Avnet since August 2020, is also joining the company’s board of directors. Gallagher has held executive leadership positions in sales, marketing, and operations during his long tenure at the company. Prior to his interim CEO position, he was the Global President of Avnet’s Electronics Components business.

Mouser Electronics Expands Headquarters with New Building Dedicated to Customer Service

Mouser Electronics announced the opening of the new Customer Service Center building at its corporate headquarters, devoted entirely to customer service and support. The new two-story, 50,000-square-foot building, located on Mouser’s 78-acre campus of its worldwide headquarters in Texas, is designed to be energy efficient and can also expand to 100,000 square feet to meet demand. Mouser offers 27 customer support locations across three continents.

India PC Market Sets a New Milestone, Shipping 3.4 Million Units in 3Q20, According to IDC India

The Indian traditional PC market inclusive of desktops, notebooks, and workstations delivered a strong quarter with 9.2% year-over-year (YoY) growth in 3Q20 (July-September 2020), according to new data from the International Data Corporation (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly Personal Computing Device Tracker. 3.4 million units shipped during the quarter, as the demand for e-learning and remote working remained strong, resulting in 3Q20 being the biggest quarter in the last seven years in India. Although the commercial segment had very few government and education projects, the consumer segment recorded its biggest quarter ever with 2.0 million shipments, growing 41.7% YoY and 167.2% from the previous quarter.

5G Smartphone Sales in South Korea Forecast to Top 10 million This Year

The shipment of 5G smartphones in South Korea is projected to top 10 million units this year, with a sharp sales increase expected in the current quarter. Sales of smartphones supporting 5G networks are estimated to reach 10.3 million units this year, more than double from previous year sales of 5.1 million units. South Korea rolled out the world's first commercial 5G network in April 2019. The number of 5G subscribers in the country stood at 9.25 million as of the end of September, according to data from the Ministry of Science and ICT.

Apple Launches MacBook Laptops Powered by Its Own Computing Chips

Apple introduced a MacBook Air notebook and other machines with its first central processor designed in-house for Macs, a move that will tie its computers and iPhones closer together technologically. The new chip, called the M1, marks a shift away from Intel Corp. technology that has driven the electronic brains of Mac computers for nearly 15 years. This is a boon for Apple computers, which are overshadowed by the company's iPhone but still rack up tens of billions of dollars in sales per year. Apple hopes developers now will create families of apps that work on both its computers and phones. (reuters.com)

Apple Reportedly Creating Its Own Search Engine

Apple is intensifying long-standing efforts to beat Google at its own game by building its own rival search engine technology, the *Financial Times* reported, as U.S. antitrust regulators hone in on the search engine giant for allegedly abusing its dominant market position and deals with other big players like Apple. In the latest version of the iPhone operating system, iOS 14, Apple bolstered its own search capabilities with little fanfare and the change went largely unnoticed. Apple and Google are both fighting antitrust battles right now that could potentially reshape the digital landscape. The U.S. Department of Justice sued Google for alleged antitrust violations following a 16-month investigation into the practices of big tech companies. The investigation included its multi-billion deal with Apple to ensure Google remains the default search engine on the iPhone.

Xi Says Economy Can Double as China Lays Out Ambitious Plans

Chinese President Xi Jinping said the Chinese economy can double in size by 2035 and the country can reach high-income status in the next five years as the Communist Party outlined ambitious plans for the nation's future. The Communist Party's top decision makers released a broad framework for a five-year economic plan and 15-year vision, focusing on self-reliance in technology, boosting domestic consumption and pursuing quality growth over speed. While the plan didn't specify an explicit growth target, Xi's ambition to double gross domestic product by 2035 would mean an annual growth rate of nearly 4.7%, said Hong Hao, chief strategist for Bocom International in Hong Kong. (TheJapanTimes.jp)

AI Recognizes COVID-19 in the Sound of a Cough

Since the spring, research teams have been working toward anytime, anywhere apps that could detect coronavirus in a cough. In June, a team at the University of Oklahoma showed it was possible to distinguish a COVID-19 cough from coughs due to other infections, and now a paper out of MIT, using the largest cough dataset yet, identifies asymptomatic people with a remarkable 100 percent detection rate. If approved by the FDA and other regulators, COVID-19 cough apps, in which a person records themselves coughing on command, could eventually be used for free, large-scale screening of the population. (spectrum.ieee.org)

Rechargeable Zinc Batteries Allow for Lighter Robots with More Capacity

New research published in the journal *Science Robotics*, describes how a new kind of rechargeable zinc battery can be integrated into the body of a robot providing far more energy than traditional lithium-ion batteries. This approach to increasing capacity will be particularly important as robots shrink to the microscale at which point current stand-alone batteries become

too big and inefficient. The combination of energy density and inexpensive materials in these zinc batteries means that they may already double the range of delivery robots. The researchers estimate that robots could have 72 times more power capacity if their exteriors were replaced with zinc batteries, compared to having a single lithium-ion battery. (circuitinsight.com)

China Smartphone Vendors Ramp Up Overseas Shipments in 3Q20

According to DigiTimes Research, China's handset vendors shipped 182 million smartphones globally in 3Q20, up 10.6% sequentially, but down 5.6% year-over-year. Of the major Chinese vendors, Huawei's shipments declined 25.5% sequentially, while Xiaomi, Oppo and Vivo all posted sequential gains. The top four vendors accounted for 74.3% of China's total smartphone shipments in 3Q20, down from 78.7% from 2Q20. According to DigiTimes, smartphones shipped by Chinese vendors will account for about 50% of global shipments in 4Q20. But Huawei is likely to lose their number one position in the China market as local rivals continue ramping up their shipments to overseas markets to meet peak-season demand.

Worldwide Tablet Shipments Grew 24.9% in Q320

According to IDC, the worldwide table market grew 24.9% year-over-year in 3Q20 with 24.9% growth and shipments of 47.6 million units. Tablet growth benefited from demand by remote workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

North American PCB Industry Sales up 7 Percent in September per IPC

IPC announced the September 2020 findings from its North American Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Statistical Program. The book-to-bill ratio stands at 0.93. Total North American PCB shipments in September 2020 were up 7% compared to the same month last year. Compared to the preceding month, September shipments grew 21.3%. PCB bookings in September grew 17.2% year-over-year and increased 59.1% from the previous month.

Reduce Energy Loss in Electric Vehicles

According to a paper published by Energy and Environmental Materials, a new technology has the potential to revolutionize energy storage in electric vehicles and reduce energy loss in the national grid. The new supercapacitor technology is based on a material called Polyaniline (or PANI), which stores energy through a mechanism known as 'pseudocapacitance.' This cheap polymer material is conductive and can be used as the electrode in a super-capacitor device. The electrode stores charge by trapping ions within the electrode. It does this by exchanging electrons with the ion, which 'dopes' the material. The potential for the super-capacitor may result in efficient and fast charging energy storage that can be used in wearable technology, as well as in mobile IoT applications, and will add to the 5G revolution.

Cirris Systems is Sold to The Schleuniger Group

Salt Lake City-based Cirris Systems Corporation was acquired by The Schleuniger Group. Founded with a single testing product in 1984, Cirris has grown to become a leader in the development and production of wire and harness test equipment, including testers, adapters, software, accessories and custom products. Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, Cirrus serves customers in over 20 countries on all seven continents. Founded in 1975 in Thun, Switzerland, Schleuniger is a global company and a leading supplier to the wire processing and testing industry. With its wholly-owned and independently managed company, DiIT, Schleuniger is also a leading player in digitization and industrial IoT (Internet of Things). The company has development and production locations in Switzerland, Germany and China, and a network of sales and service companies in North America, Europe and Asia.

Apple Manufacturers Diversify iPhone Manufacturing with Investments in India

India's new \$6.65 billion production-linked incentive (PLI) offers companies cash incentives on any increase in sales of locally made smartphones over the next five years, compared with 2019-20 levels. This aims to help transform India into an export manufacturing hub. Three of Apple Inc's top contract manufacturers plan to invest a total of almost \$900 million in India in the next five years to tap into the new production-linked incentive plan. Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron all plan to make investments under PLI. Foxconn has applied to invest about ₹4,000 crore (\$542 million), while Wistron and Pegatron have committed to invest close to ₹1300 crore and ₹1200 crore, respectively, under the PLI plan. It is unclear whether all the investments will be targeted at boosting manufacturing of Apple devices in India, but the sources and industry insiders said the vast majority would be focused on expanding iPhone manufacturing in the country. While Foxconn, Pegatron and Wistron make devices for companies other than Apple globally, Wistron's arm in India currently assembles only iPhones.