



**In this issue...**

- **Creating the building blocks for an unplanned economy:**  
We talk to Ollie Althorpe of ST Microelectronics on how to succeed in a global economy.
- **Don't panic but it's the end of the line for semiconductors!** —and we have a truly international line up of world experts to discuss what the future holds for us all— see our Design For Manufacturing event in the technical networks calendar.
- **Software patents and embedded software development** are the focus of our event in Reading
- **Nominate your company** and raise your profile in our industry awards
- **Announcing our annual dinner**— it's the semiconductor social event of the year
- **On the Radar:** Take a look at all our upcoming events

**“Meet the CEO” with Ollie Althorpe**



Ollie Althorpe of ST Microelectronics talks to our CEO about his views on how both UK and Ireland will succeed in the global electronics industry. Ollie provides a sanguine look at what the needs of the industry are and observes that we have a **“strength driven out of weakness”**: Our domestic market situation is not as strong as it is in the USA, Japan or even Germany but this means we are not constrained by the local market. The operational issues that we face certainly present us with difficulties but it is also a major benefit to our mindset. With a global vision a whole new raft of customers and massive markets can be seen (see International Business Support below eyeing Russia and Japan for example). Fundamentally we need to **“create the building blocks for an unplanned economy”** - if we get this right we'll prosper as a region for advanced engineering. The challenges we face include nurturing our young bright minds and it is therefore important to recognise diverse forms of learning as it is here where Ollie sees a need to change Government and educational thinking in order to fully realise our potential. Read Ollie's insight in full as part of NMI's **“Meet the CEO”** series at [http://www.nmi.org.uk/sector\\_info/ceo\\_home.htm](http://www.nmi.org.uk/sector_info/ceo_home.htm)

**Annual Awards - Nov 8th, London**

**Make an Award Nomination**

We need your help to identify outstanding companies that have demonstrated excellence in key areas that keep us at the forefront of the global semiconductor industry:

NMI seeks nominations for companies in the following categories – if you would like to make a nomination please [vote via our website](#) and tell us what's great about the company. The categories are:

- **Start-up of the year**
- **Innovation**
- **Services to training and education**
- **Emerging technology company of the year**
- **Energy efficiency**
- **Manufacturing site of the year**
- **Contribution to industry**



*Toumaz Technology (above) received the 2006 Start Up of the Year award from award sponsor Cadence.*

**Entertain Customers or Staff and Celebrate with Us!**

...at the NMI Annual Dinner on November 8th in London. This is a prestigious and premier event in the NMI calendar which brings stakeholders from across the microelectronics industry together for an evening of celebration and entertainment. It is a great opportunity to network with industry peers and ideal for meeting old friends. Why not use the occasion to entertain customers and staff as tables are available for sponsorship. If you would like to host guests or celebrate the year with your colleagues contact us on 01506 401 210 for details.

## Members Benefit from Targeted Promotions

Many organisations approach NMI asking for more information about our members as they may be looking for services locally or are generally interested in regional capabilities. We have also found that in some cases our members' corporate web sites may not reflect the activities at the UK location or services that are provided may be concealed within a larger structure. A solution is at hand as we are now providing members with the opportunity to supply us with a short, key facts and figures presentation which we will host on our site alongside industry peers. This means that our members can market specific products and services at a UK/Ireland level and to a targeted microelectronics audience.

## Partner Events

Along with our own events, we would strongly recommend that you take a look at our partner events coming up at [www.siliconsouthwest.co.uk](http://www.siliconsouthwest.co.uk)

### IP Perspectives

**July 6th, Swindon**

IP is being created continuously by universities, start-ups and the R&D groups of the large corporations - strategies for successfully harnessing this innovation in global markets and across different patent territories challenge all of the players. But what are risks and what are the opportunities for start-ups?

### Wireless 2.0

**September 28th, Bristol**

Silicon South West's first International Conference has attracted an unparalleled line-up of speakers to address the next step in wireless technology, markets and venture opportunities—don't miss it!

## WIRELESS 2.0

Silicon South West International Conference  
Bristol, 28 September 2007 [www.siliconsouthwest.com](http://www.siliconsouthwest.com)

## International Business Support

### Telecoms Mission to Russia

**September 23rd-28th**

***Russia's Telecommunications market now ranks as the largest in Europe.*** UKTI in conjunction with the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce are organising a Telecoms mission to Moscow and St Petersburg this September 23 – 28 and invite UK companies to explore communications sector opportunities in Russia. Places are limited so do not delay—for further information contact **Hannah Lilleyon 020 7403 1706** or [commercialmanageruk@rbcc.co.uk](mailto:commercialmanageruk@rbcc.co.uk) [rasik.tailor@uktradeinvest.gov.uk](mailto:rasik.tailor@uktradeinvest.gov.uk)

**CEATEC** <http://www.ceatec.com/>

**October 2nd-4th Tokyo**

Is the largest international technology and electronics exhibition in Asia with over 200,000 visitors last year. JETRO (a Japanese government sponsored agency) is offering a **FREE 1-2-1 business matching scheme** to co-ordinate business meetings in advance which includes free access to interpreters. If this show is of interest to your company please contact **Sachiko Okubo** in London on **020 7421 8300** (Deadline July 13th for applications)

## On the Radar: Technical Networks & Events

All our technical network event details can be found at [http://www.nmi.org.uk/events/events\\_calendar.htm](http://www.nmi.org.uk/events/events_calendar.htm)

### Embedded software

**July 12th, Reading**

Embedded software is an essential system component offering performance and flexibility. This event looks at the challenges this brings to development, particularly from a hardware perspective, as well as using case studies to illustrate practical solutions.

### Analogue & Mixed Signal Design

**September 12th, Bristol**

Demand for highly complex RF IC design is increasing with the huge proliferation of wireless products now available. Today's RF circuits bear little resemblance to those of 10 years ago - complexity has increased by orders of magnitude, frequency ranges and rates have multiplied and the challenges of power and noise are ever increasing. This event takes a practical look at the solutions and support of the design process across simulation, verification, layout, test and foundry.

### System Level Design

**October 4th**

Low power electronics is everywhere from reducing carbon footprints to extending the battery life of feature-rich mobile devices. But how can this be best achieved? What are the emerging standards that support low power design? This event will look at the latest techniques and challenges in this field.

**Call for contributions:** If you have experience of a challenging low power design project and would like to present a case study for this event please contact Robin Kennedy ([robin.kennedy@nmi.org.uk](mailto:robin.kennedy@nmi.org.uk))

### Design for Manufacture (DFM)

**October 23rd, London**

Fact: There are fundamental changes in sight that will have a far-reaching impact for design and manufacturing in the semiconductor industry: 65nm has been relatively easy.

**Designs are open to attack** – SRAM will be one of the first casualties and this will have a resultant impact on System-on-Chip products. In short we will have to change the way we work in the nano-CMOS era; the way we architect circuits and the way we build the underlying devices. This is a truly International

### Annual Dinner and Awards

**November 8th**

Our industry awards and annual dinner celebration will be held at the Hilton London Metropole. We will be announcing the winners of our annual awards as the industry acknowledges excellence in design, manufacture, business and education during the evening.

## A Special Thank You to our Sponsors



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## Manufacturing Update

### Global Stockroom

GSR has made great progress over the last few months where a number of our members have sourced equipment spares through this truly unique system.

### Meetings & Collaborations

Over the last few months we've coordinated many best practice meetings within our specialist networks which have resulted in novel ideas and partnership development . We've run meetings with the plant managers, equipment engineering and the manufacturing managers. In addition we have helped specialist groups work remotely, sharing data and making key contacts, such as Industrial Engineering and TEL Tracks users. Collaboration is alive and kicking at NMI.

### Benchmarking Study 2007

We are embarking on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fab benchmarking study which was first conducted in 2005. We have made improvements to important metrics and data collection to maximise the value of the study.

**NMI will be at SEMICON Europa <http://semiconeuropa.semi.org/>**

**October 9th-11th Stuttgart**

Come and see us at Booth 269 in Hall 1

## More News

### Millbrook Technology Campus is open for business

Sir Digby Jones officially opened the campus in Southampton on June 20th as Millbrook aim to harness academic and technological capabilities for start-ups, spin-offs and foreign-owned firms wishing to locate in the UK. The site is targeting microelectronic and information technology companies as it is more than an incubator –along with office facilities it offers access to funding and business support as well as a range of technical facilities such as reliability life testing, stress testing and analysis tools. The site also offers industrial space for companies that need to locate test, laboratory or manufacturing equipment.

<http://www.millbrooktechnologycampus.co.uk/>

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