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LIGHTimes Online

News and Resources for the Solid State Lighting Industry and its Supply Chain

October 25, 2006

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Commentary & Perspective...

Impressions from Senior Technical Editor, Alan Thompson About Intertech/PIRA's LED Conference

Alan Thompson, Senior Technology Editor

October 24, 2006...I recently attended the Intertech/PIRA LEDs 2006 Conference, which was held in San Diego, California October 16-18th. Rather than giving a run down of all the speakers and their presentations, I thought I would highlight a few topics that caught my interest and pose some questions raised by them. For those interested, the complete program is posted on the Intertech web site, www.intertechusa.com.

A very interesting workshop was presented prior to the main conference by the

Dominant Semiconductors Chosen for Shell Gas Stati

Scott McMahan

October 23, 2006...Shell gas stations a growing number of gas stations that ha use LED technology for general lightin canopies. Dominant Semiconductors of reports that it has been chosen by Shel to provide LED lighting for the compa panels and canopies.

Bottom-line minded businesses are mor among the early adopters of LED techn general lighting. Gas stations provide a opportunity for LED technology to shi says that their power LEDs have been i the company's logo panel and canopy t the petrol station lighting system. Alth completely replacing other light source stations have made a good start with the adoption. SecondPage members login f Guests can view membership details.

Luminus Devices Introduc PhlatLight PT120 for Tex Instruments DLP Technol

LIGHTimes Staff

October 23, 2006...Luminus Devices ha light source for Texas Instruments' 108 its microdisplay projection television c 120 chipset. According to the company, chipset combine to produce more than operating conditions. The company say illuminate rear projection televisions of chipset.

The company indicated that although th smaller than 0.7 inches, the chipset was Instruments' technology. Luminus Devi PT120 allow users to maximize the amo

International Finance Corporation (IFC), a division of the World Bank that is tasked with enabling commercial opportunities to improve people's lives. They have a project to bring SSL to people who have no access to a grid and who rely largely on kerosene based devices for their lighting needs. The genesis of this project was presented 2 years ago by Russell Sturm and has now grown to the point where industry can step up and participate. Russell and colleague Fabio Nehme, assisted by consultants Evan Mills (Lawrence Berkeley National Lab), Arne Jacobson (Humboldt State University), and Katherine Conway (LED Consulting), gave a comprehensive look at this novel opportunity. I certainly cannot cover all their points in the space I have here, but let me hit a couple of the high spots.

There are 1.6 billion people who have no power grid access, and they spend US$38 billion per year on hardware and fuel (lamps, candles, batteries and kerosene). Kerosene is the most inefficient fuel for lighting and has well documented negative health and environmental impacts. However, it has usually been the only available solution. This unfortunate fact of international life has been underscored by David Irvine-Halliday when publicizing his admirable Light Up The World Foundation (www.LUTW.org). While groups such as LUTW solicit charitable contributions and buy and donate solar powered lights (the most recent large benefactor being Shuji Nakamura, ref: Sept. 8th headline news) the IFC group believes a much larger impact can be made through commercial endeavors. After all, most companies are not in business to give away their products or they would soon go out of business. However, all the companies that I have talked to over the last year would welcome an opportunity to do some good and make some money at the same time. The possibility of cooperating with local companies for assembly, distribution, sales and servicing also suggests good job creation. The IFC project targets Kenya and Ghana initially with in-country market research and testing of potential products. If you make LED products and are interested in what could be a multi-billion dollar opportunity, please go to the IFC web site www.ifc.org/led and/or talk to Russell or Fabio

projected onto the screen. SecondPage m membership details.

Catalyst Semiconductor In 500mA Inductive LED Dri Movie/Flash Applications

LIGHTimes Staff

October 23, 2006...Catalyst Semicondu new 500mA inductive LED driver for m applications. The company, a supplier mixed-signal, and non-volatile memory California USA, is now offering the CA the efficiency and simplifies the design flashlight, LCD backlighting, and othe to the company, it allows designers to s via a single resistor. In this way it mini device can drive up to six white or six c more. Guests can view membership det

Cree Reports Solid Revenu Profits Down

LIGHTimes Staff

October 20, 2006...Cree reported reven fiscal 2007, ending September 24, 200 represent a 1 percent increase compared came in the middle of the previously a million. Profit declined about 39 perce for the same period a year ago.*"Q1 was earnings at the high end of our previous* Swoboda, Cree chairman and CEO. *"W challenging, we continue to make outst enabling LEDs to become a cost-effect applications. The recently introduced E XLamp 7090 power LED have establish dramatically increasing the light outpu forward, we are on track with our strate higher-value components for the treme* SecondPage members login for more. C

Osram Introduces New Ge for Thin Display Backligh

LIGHTimes Staff

October 19, 2006...Osram Opto Semico subsidiary of German company Osram, side-emitting MicroSideLEDs. The com make batteries last longer, and the LED backlighting applications. The new Mic company says that because of advances 30 percent brighter than the previous ve mere 0.9 cd, the new MicroSideLEDs ea company. SecondPage members login f details.

With the maturing of the cellphone market, the LED community has busied itself with trying to figure out the next killer application to keep us growing at our accustomed rapid pace, and this conference was no exception. For my money, one of the better ideas was presented by Mark McClear of Cree. He gave an interesting (and sometimes humorous) account of their attempt to build a competitive street light to replace current HID based products. After realizing that retrofitting the existing head was not the way to go they came up with a completely different looking head that gave the same illumination level and pattern as the HID lamp. His economic analysis showed a 3-year payback even though the LED based head is about double the price of the HID product. Interestingly (and unlike the traffic light switchover), the savings come almost entirely from bulb replacement avoidance, since the energy consumption based on today's LEDs is similar (although we know that will improve for LEDs). With 60 million streetlights in the USA alone and about 200 million worldwide, this represents a very significant opportunity at aproximately $250 per lamp.

Brightside Technologies' Richard MacKellar showed their high dynamic range display alongside a regular FPD using the same LCD panel. The difference was obvious and the quality of still and moving images was stunning. They use a large number of white LEDs for backlighting spread across the back of the LCD display. They drive them with special circuits to increase both the contrast ratio and the brightness. Currently the extra components cost too much, but with some volume they believe the cost differential can come down to 50 percent in a couple of years. Since customers pay 50-100 percent extra for high intensity discharge (HID) vs. LED now, this may well be a large volume market for LEDs that have high power and high efficacy. Whether they can buck current suppliers is a big question but all who saw the demo agreed they have a strong selling point.

Lastly I would like to compliment Kevin Dowling of Color Kinetics, who as usual gave a talk that was both informative and entertaining. He mentioned the DOE study on CFL lamps that is well worth a look by anybody wrestling with trying to break

CPT Unveils Several New Technologies at FPD Inter

LIGHTimes Staff

October 20, 2006...Chunghwa Picture T backlight panel technologies at FPD In 18-20, according to an article in Digiti 80,000:1-contrast LED technology, a 4 quarter of 2007, and the company's firs technology. CPT's 80,000:1-contrast t to bring the contrast to such a high lev CPT told Digitimes it has no plans to n for LED backlighting are still high con members login for more. Guests can vi

National Semiconductor In Drivers for Power LEDs

LIGHTimes Staff

October 18, 2006...National Semicondu for power LEDs at the Light Emitting D USA. According to the company the dri in automotive, industrial, and general l LM3402, LM3404 and LM3405 LED dr provides a constant current to regulate t voltage to minimize power dissipation. Guests can view membership details.

Permlight Gets New Presid

LIGHTimes Staff

October 17, 2006...One of the early con in-home, residential lighting, Permlight president and CEO. In a statement to in who took over the position from Manue Manuel's brother, who will take the rei Fernando Lynch joined as VP of sales i *with Fernando Lynch closely and seein and suppliers, it became apparent that h into the future*." He added, "*I'm confide product line and more importantly his c problems and expanding our business. I sensitive. I'm sure you'll enjoy working the past*."

We are always looking f
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Editor - at - SSLighting.

into the lighting market by touting the efficiency of LEDs (see www.netl.doe.gov/ssl/publications.html). This study goes a long way toward explaining why CFL lamps are in only 2% of Edison (screw-in) sockets in the USA. He then delved into lighting systems and their design and gave some interesting examples. I thought the last part of his talk was the most compelling when he discussed standards and appealed for more participation by manufacturers at all levels. He is personally involved in several of the standards organizations such as the NGLI, IES, and NEMA. I suggest you contact him through Color Kinetics if you would like to participate and help move this industry forward even more quickly.

A reminder that the opinions here are mine alone and I welcome different outlooks, corrections or discussion. Feel free to contact me directly, Alan Thompson, by direct email at "mocvd@comcast.net"

If you have questions about the solid state lighting and compound semiconductor industries or have news or views to share, we want to hear from you!
Feel free to contact us anytime.
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- Nanometrics Introduces VerteX Rapid Photoluminescence Mapping System for Compound Semiconductors
- Osram Opto Semiconductors Announces New Generation of Side-Emitting MicroSideLEDs
- National Semiconductor Introduces New Family of LED Drivers to Power High-Brightness LEDs Optimized for Industrial and Automotive LED Applications
- BridgeLux Files Lawsuit Against Cree for Patent Infringement
- Astronics' Exterior Lighting Selected for Embraer's Phenom 100 Very Light Jet
- Aixtron Receives Order From Taiwan's Visual Photonics Epitaxy Co. Ltd., for two MOCVD Reactors
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