

2007 European Frost & Sullivan Award for Technology Innovation**ChipSensors Ltd.**

The 2007 Frost & Sullivan European Technology Innovation Award in the field of sensors goes to the Ireland-based ChipSensors in recognition of its development of a new class of sensors. ChipSensors is currently developing a variety of sensors that have the potential for usage in a number of industries.

With Moore's Law governing the growth of electronics, the industry has grown enormously in the last twenty years. Sensors on the other hand have not really benefited from or come under Moore's Law. While today's sensors are better than their predecessors, they still do not show the blistering pace shown by the electronics industry.

ChipSensors Ltd works on sensors but approaches it from a different angle. Normally manufactured from glass and ceramic substrates, sensors require a number of specialized processes. This can be minimized by integrating sensors with complementary metal oxide semiconductors manufacturing processes. Normally, this would involve some amount of post processing, limiting scalability, and increasing cost. ChipSensors works on building sensors for a variety of physical parameters directly on the complementary metal oxide semiconductors (CMOS) chip. Using its technology, the company can put a number of sensors, signal conditioners and radio frequency links directly on the CMOS chip. Using the low-k dielectrics in deep sub-micrometer CMOS as sensor materials, the company is able to place an analog to digital converter directly below the sensors in the substrate. This chip will show changes in resistivity and capacitance proportional to changes in humidity and a variety of gases, effectively making it analogous to a sensor. The first generation will offer temperature, humidity, and light sensing while the second generation will allow room temperature gas sensing along with the detection of certain gases and vapors. Later generations will also include pathogen sensors. Right from the first generation, the company will offer integrated microcontrollers and communication modules to make integration easier.

Spun off from a design consultancy specializing in wireless applications, ChipSensors was founded in 2006 and subsequently raised seed capital from Irish investors including Kernel Capital.

One of the huge advantages of ChipSensor's approach is that it is inherently scalable. With a well established 3rd party semiconductor supply chain, the company is able to outsource or subcontract almost 100% of its manufacturing, enabling them to get into the market with low capital expenditures. With patents filed on its technology, the company is also prepared to back itself up in the intellectual property (IP) field. And with potential applications in a variety of industries including automotive, environment control, food and pharmaceutical monitoring and applications across domains in services such as logistics management, the company can utilize the scalability and the intellectual protection to meet the market demands. The company has a number of features that will not be easy to duplicate or surpass by competitors.

ChipSensor's technology enables it to leverage existing investments in electronics fabrication along with the existing knowledge base in that area to bring sophisticated products to the market at competitive prices. Recognizing the company's platform design, its scalability and its potential to effect influence the field of sensors, Frost & Sullivan is pleased to award the company the 2007 Technology Innovation of the Year Award in the field of sensors.

Award Description

Frost & Sullivan's Technology Innovation Award is bestowed upon a company (or individual) that has carried out new research, which has resulted in innovation(s) that have or are expected to bring significant contributions to the industry in terms of adoption, change, and competitive posture. This award recognizes the quality and depth of a company's research and development program as well as the vision and risk-taking that enabled it to undertake such an endeavor.

Research Methodology

To choose the award recipient, Frost & Sullivan's analyst team tracks innovation in key hi-tech markets. The selection process includes primary participant interviews and extensive primary and secondary research via the bottom-up approach. The analyst team shortlists candidates on the basis of a set of qualitative and quantitative

measurements. The analysts also consider the pace of research and technology innovation, and the significance or potential relevance of the innovation to the overall industry. The ultimate award recipient is chosen after a thorough evaluation of this research.

Measurement Criteria

In addition to the methodology described above, there are specific criteria used to determine the final rankings. The recipient of this award has excelled based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Significance of the innovation(s) in the industry, and across industries (if applicable)
- Potential of the products of innovation(s) to become industry standard(s)
- Competitive advantage of innovation vis-à-vis other related innovations
- Impact (or potential impact) of innovation(s) on company or industry mind share and/or company bottom line
- Breadth of intellectual property related to the innovation(s), that is, patents, scientific publications, papers in peer-reviewed journals.

About Best Practices

Frost & Sullivan Best Practices Awards recognize companies in a variety of regional and global markets for demonstrating outstanding achievement and superior performance in areas such as leadership, technological innovation, customer service, and strategic product development. Industry analysts compare market participants and measure performance through in-depth interviews, analysis, and extensive secondary research in order to identify best practices in the industry.

About Frost & Sullivan

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