

MEDIA RELEASE

A*STAR INSTITUTE OF MICROELECTRONICS SILICON MEMS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED FOR LINKSTAR MICROTRONICS QUALIFIED BY CUSTOMERS FOR VOLUME PRODUCTION

Singapore, 14 December 2011 –

The pilot shipment of silicon optic device fabricated using novel MEMS technology developed by A*STAR Institute of Microelectronics (IME) for LinkStar Microtronics Pte. Ltd. (LinkStar), a one year old company which is a spin-off from IME, has been qualified by LinkStar's customers for mass production. Using the silicon MEMS technology, LinkStar is able to deliver novel silicon optical devices with high accuracy and repeatability at a competitive cost.

The IME silicon MEMS technology is highly innovative in providing a low-cost and yet effective means to enable accurate alignment of optical devices to the optical fiber arrays. Accurate alignment of optical components to optical fiber array is extremely critical to ensure that maximum amount of light is coupled to the devices with minimal optical power loss. Conventional methods to reduce alignment errors are costly, difficult to implement and time consuming. The novel approach developed by IME offers a simple and rapid method of alignment resulting in significantly reduced assembly and packaging costs, thus the optical products can be offered to the market with significant cost advantages.

"This example showcases our persistent effort to enhance our overall photonics capabilities and commercialization potential of our technology, especially leveraging the innovative methods available in IME, such as MEMS technology in this case. Attaining volume production status from the customer marks a significant milestone achievement on our silicon photonics roadmap." commented Prof. Dim-Lee Kwong, Executive Director of IME. "Extending this technology to LinkStar exemplifies our commitment to provide research expertise to local innovation-based enterprises to enable their success."

"Access to advanced research and technical resources is vital to the success of technology start-ups, especially in the highly competitive semiconductor industry. IME's novel and scalable solution allows us to provide these devices cost effectively and meet customer's stringent requirements in a short turnaround time," said Dr. Xiaojun Yuan, Chairman and CEO of LinkStar.

The silicon MEMS technology is licensed to LinkStar via Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd, the commercialisation arm of A*STAR.

About Institute of Microelectronics (IME)

The Institute of Microelectronics (IME) is a research institute of the Science and Engineering Research Council of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Positioned to bridge the R&D between academia and industry, IME's mission is to add value to Singapore's semiconductor industry by developing strategic competencies, innovative technologies and intellectual property; enabling enterprises to be technologically competitive; and cultivating a technology talent pool to inject new knowledge to the industry. Its key research areas are in integrated circuits design, advanced packaging, bioelectronics and medical devices, MEMS, nanoelectronics, and photonics. For more information, visit IME on the Internet: <http://www.ime.a-star.edu.sg>.

About Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) is the lead agency for fostering world-class scientific research and talent for a vibrant knowledge-based and innovation-driven Singapore. A*STAR oversees 14 biomedical sciences, and physical sciences and engineering research institutes, and seven consortia & centre, which are located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis, as well as their immediate vicinity. A*STAR supports Singapore's key economic clusters by providing intellectual, human and industrial capital to its partners in industry. It also supports extramural research in the universities, hospitals, research centres, and with other local and international partners.

About LinkStar Microtronics Pte. Ltd.

LinkStar Microtronics Pte. Ltd. (LinkStar) is a fabless semiconductor company that offers innovative Silicon devices and solutions for Satellite, wireless and optical communications. The company has a world-class engineering team with decades of cumulative expertise in RF/analog and mixed-signal integrated circuit design using RFCMOS technology. LinkStar was founded in June, 2010. LinkStar is headquartered in Singapore. For more information, visit LinkStar's website <http://www.linkstarmicrotronics.com/>.

About Exploit Technologies Pte. Ltd.

Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd (ETPL) is the strategic marketing and commercialisation arm of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Its mission is to support A*STAR in transforming the economy through commercialising R&D. Exploit Technologies enhances the research output of A*STAR scientists by translating their inventions into marketable products or processes. Through licensing deals and spin-offs with industry partners, Exploit Technologies is a key driver of technology transfer in Singapore. It actively engages industry leaders and players to commercialise A*STAR's technologies and capabilities, bridging the gap from Mind to Market. Exploit Technologies' charter is to identify, protect and exploit promising intellectual property (IP)

created by A*STAR's research institutes. For more information, please visit www.exploit-tech.com

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