

DKN Research Newsletter

#1916, June 9th, 2019 (English Edition)

(Micro Electronics & Packaging)

dnumakura@dknresearch.com, www.dknresearch.com

JPCA SHOW 2019 (Part 1)

The JPCA show opened on June 5th at Tokyo Big Sight. The three day show was sold out in spite of the slow down for the global printed circuit industry. The show comes at a good time, and gave me the opportunity to network, collaborate and collect market data for both business and technology trends.



The location of the exhibition moved to the West Hall from East Hall due to construction for the Olympic Games in 2020. Organizers for the JPCA show had less exhibition space this year due to construction. This was beneficial for companies affiliated with the printed circuit industry; reduced sales translated into lower advertising budgets, so paying less to be represented at the show was welcomed. Large printed circuit companies such as CMK, Meiko and Mektron reduced the size of their booths, and many companies canceled their contributions made to the exhibition. Many seminars and technical events were canceled this year.

Despite the slowdown, many people attended the exhibition. I spoke with a few industry analysts who commented on the global printed circuit industry. Year to date, the industry has posted negative growth compared with the same time last year. The flexible circuit segment is performing worse compared with the rest of the industry. March and April shipments showed signs of improvement, but robust sales during third and fourth quarter are required to post a positive growth number for the year.

Second half sales forecasts from industry analysts were mixed. The printed circuit industry is tied to the electronics industry, and worldwide sales for mobile equipment continue to decline. The major circuit board manufacturers in Taiwan are receiving orders from new markets in the auto industry and medical device companies. Korean circuit manufacturers have not branched out to other industries; they are hoping for a recovery from the larger electronics companies such as LG and Samsung. Japanese Circuit manufacturers are maintaining the status quo, and will not consider branching into automobile, medical or healthcare industries until a proven track record is realized.

The next edition of the DKN Research Newsletter will detail technology trends from the JPCA Show.

**Dominique K. Numakura, dnumakura@dknresearch.com
DKN Research, www.dknresearch.com**

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Headlines of the week

(Please contact haverhill@dknresearch.com for further information and news.)

1. Tokyo University (Japan) 5/24

Has developed a new electrode material with self-restoration capability for the secondary batteries. It is effective to extend the battery life.

2. JAE (Major connector supplier in Japan) 6/3

Has expanded the product lines of HDMI Type connector series “MX50” for the automobiles.

3. Connectech Japan (Engineering firm in Japan) 6/3

Has been establishing low temperature flip chip packaging down to 80 degree C for IoT semiconductor devices.

4. HITO Hospital (Aichi Prefecture, Japan) 6/4

Has started the operation of new electronic management system introducing a voice data input devices.

5. P-ban.com (Network printed circuit dealer in Japan) 6/5

Has rolled out new high-density flexible circuits down to 30 micron L/S with high conductivities and low migration of silver conductors.

6. ISUZU & HINO (Major automobile manufacturers in Japan) 6/6

Has co-developed a new hybrid EV bus with 120 seats connecting two cars. It will make the transportation efficiencies 50% higher.

7. NDK (Major wireless device manufacturer in Japan) 5/24

Has unveiled a new small size heat resistant OCXO (Quartz crystal unit) device available at high temperature up to 95 degree C. Size: 9.9x7.3x4.1mm

8. Subaru & Toyota (Major automobile manufacturers in Japan) 6/6

Has agreed to cooperate to develop the basic platform of plug-in hybrid vehicles.

9. Key Sight Technology (Soft ware supplier in Japan) 6/7

Has released a new soft wear for the evaluation of the network analyzers at mid range frequencies of 25GHz to 53 GHz.

10. Rohm (Major device supplier in Japan) 6/7

Has gotten the certification of Wi-SUN JUTA for the wireless module of smart meter systems.

11. Oki Cable (Major cable manufacturer in Japan) 6/7

Has rolled out new stretchable flexible circuits with elastic substrates and copper foil for the wearable applications. Soldering is available.

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