

DKN Research Newsletter

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COVID -19 PCR Test in Japan

Last November, I had a Covid-19 PCR test at Narita Airports upon arrival from the U.S. This test was administered prior to passport control and took up almost an hour and a half (my test result was negative). The test was free, but transportation from the airport to my home was over three hundred U.S. dollars. The Japanese government did not allow passengers to use public transportations – no buses, trains or cabs. My house was reasonably close to the airport, but transportation cost to Tokyo is more than five hundred dollars.

Return flight expenses to Boston from Tokyo added up quickly. Ground transportation was \$30, luggage transportation was \$50, and the cost for the PCR test came in at a whopping 48,500 yens, about 450 U.S dollars. This was almost half the cost of a round trip air ticket! The airport staff explained to me the test was so expensive because the report must be written in English in under four hours.

I was required to have an appointment at the lab at least 7 hours before check in. I am super careful with travel and showed up 11 hours before check in just in case anything went wrong, and something went wrong. The test was delayed so I had to change my flight (two days later), and check into a hotel at my expense. The laboratory was not operated by the government but was part of a medical school in Tokyo. Their annual revenue from this cushy gig should be enough to run the operation smoothly, but that is not the case.

So, during my down time I checked the cost of a PCR Test from a public laboratory in Tokyo; \$50 per test if the client sends the sample via snail mail. The report is returned via email. The lab from the airport will gouge and make as much money as they can but this will not last once the pandemic is over. Vaccine cards will possibly replace Covid-19 PCR tests.

In my opinion, demand for personal electronic monitoring devices will spike over the next couple of years. This device will continuously check body temperature, blood pressure, sugar concentration in the blood, oxygen levels and more. Our industry will reap the benefits of these new generation products while being proactive with keeping people safe and healthy!

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Headlines of the week

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

1. Murata (Major device supplier in Japan) 5/27

Has codeveloped a new thin heatsink material (200 micron thick) , “Vaper Chamber” for high speed mobile devices. A cooling liquid removes the heat by similar function of heat pump.

2. NIMS (Major R&D organization in Japan) 5/31

Has developed a new TFT device using all printing process with LCSS materials. The sintering temperature is below 90 degree C, therefore, the circuit can be built on plastic films.

3. Tokyo University (Japan) 6/1

Has codeveloped a new memory device capable to build 3D integration using IGZTO material with KOBELCO. IGZTO was originally developed as thin insulation layer of flat panel displays.

4. TSMC (Major semiconductor manufacturer in Taiwan) 6/7

The production line of N5 (5 nm) process produces 14% of the whole revenue in the first quarter of 2021.

7 nm line produces 35%, 16 nm, 14%, 28 nm line 11%.

5. TSMC (Major semiconductor manufacturer in Taiwan) 6/10

Plans to build 2 nm line in Hsinchu Taiwan. It is optimistic to keep Moore’s Law beyond 2 nm. But there is no idea about under 2 nm line in the latest road map.

6. Taiyo Ink, Korea (Major ink material supplier in Korea) 6/11

Has roll out a new white dry film “PSR-400 WD17NB” for the reflection boards of the Mini LED backlight unit designed for tablet PCs.

7. Alps Alpine (Major device manufacturer in Japan) 6/11

Has developed a new air environmental sensor module that detect carbon dioxide in the air. It will be a valuable device to control the corona virus infection. Alps will start the volume production in 2022.

8. Fujitsu General Electronics (Module manufacturer in Japan) 6/15

Has commercialized a new high voltage GaN power module. The device has two story construction of FR-4 substrates. Size: 34 x 63 x 12 mm for 6 chips.

9. TPCA (Industrial organization in Taiwan) 6/15

May shipment of Taiwanese PCB manufacturers was 58.78 billion NT\$, 16.80% increase from the same month of the previous year, 1.1% increase from the previous month.

10. Toshiba (Major electric & electronics company in Japan) 6/15

Has developed a new light detection system for solid state LiDAR, two dimensional Silicon Photo Multiplier. The module has a better resolution at 200meter distance.

11. Fuji Keizai Group (Market research firm in Japan) 6/15

Has released a new global market research report of power semiconductors. The market size of silicon base power semiconductors was 2.75 trillion yens in 2020. It will grow to 3.80 trillion yens.

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