

DKN Research Newsletter

#2108, April 4th, 2021 (English Edition)

(Micro Electronics & Packaging)

dnumakura@dknresearch.com, www.dknresearch.com

Recovering From the Pandemic

New daily cases of Covid-19 continue to set records and stands at more than 130 million infections worldwide. The number of Covid-19 related deaths reached three million as many countries are in the midst of a third and fourth wave.

Diagnosis and treatment options have progressed dramatically throughout the past year. PCR test results can be received in as little as 30 minutes and three different vaccines are available. Pharmaceutical companies increased their manufacturing capacities and distribution pipelines are improving every day. By years end, anyone who wants to get vaccinated will have the opportunity.

The electronics industry developed many tools to help combat Covid-19. It is common to measure body temperature, blood pressure and oxygen levels in blood at home or work. These tools are valuable for early detection. The devices could be wireless, easy to operate and have AI systems to manage the diagnosis system. One of my business associates who owns a flex circuit manufacturer in the U.S. told me his company is extremely busy supplying new high end flex circuits to medical equipment manufacturers. Nowadays, people are happy to pay more money for monitoring systems to detect the signs of the dangerous disease.

Work from home options is common. The companies who benefited from this include those that manufacture desktops, notebook PCs, monitors and all other related equipment needed to set up a remote office at home. This surge in demand for PCs increased the demand for HDI multi-layer rigid boards. Major printed circuit manufacturers in Taiwan have been busy since last spring. Typically, the Taiwanese electronics industry slows down during February because of the lunar New Year vacation. That is not the case this year. Printed Circuit manufacturers posted double digit growth during February year over year.

I have been in Japan for an extended time. The pandemic continues to expand here, and business for the electronics industry is slow. All the vaccines for Japan are imported from the U.S. and the EU. This is slowing down the vaccination process.

Notebook and desktop PC manufacturers in Japan did increase their shipments during the second half of 2020. The trickle-down effect for circuit board manufacturers allowed them to increase their shipments of HDI circuit boards. However, the revenues of Japanese manufacturers compared with their Taiwanese counterparts are very

lopsided. Taiwanese manufacturers are much more profitable and very aggressive to increase their market share. I am optimistic that Japanese manufacturers will resume business with new ideas as usual once this pandemic is over when.

Dominique K. Numakura, dnumakura@dknresearch.com

DKN Research, www.dknresearch.com

*To view the Newsletter archives, click on the following URL:

<http://www.dknresearchllc.com/DKNRArchive/Newsletter/Newsletter.html>

Headlines of the week

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

1. Renesas Electronics (Major semiconductor manufacturer in Japan) 3/30
Is planning to restart the operation of Naka Plant in Ibaraki in one month after fire accident.
2. TPCA (Printed circuit association in Taiwan) 3/17
February shipment was 47.54 billion new Taiwan dollars, declined 20.5% from previous month, and 35.1% increase from the same month of the previous year.
3. JOLED (Major display manufacturer in Japan) 3/31
Has started the shipment of the world first organic EL display panel produced by printing process in Mobara Plant.
4. Panasonic (Major electronics company in Japan) 4/1
Has released a new healthcare application OND'U for the Smart Aging Project utilizing current wireless sensing technologies.
5. Maxell (Major electronics material manufacturer in Japan) 4/1
Has developed a new all solid-state coin type battery PSB041515 with ceramic package. Capacity: 8.0mAh, Size: 14.5 x 14.5 x 4mm.
6. Kyoto University (Japan) 4/2
Has developed a new catalyst for the water electrolysis process to generate hydrogen. The cost of catalyst will be one tenth.
7. Tohoku University (Japan) 4/5

Has developed a new solid-state flexible energy storage device with 3D printing process using liquid ion material.

8. RIKEN (Major R&D organization in Japan) 4/5

Has agreed with Fujitsu to cooperate to develop a quantum computer using super conductive materials.

9. Tokyo University (Japan) 4/6

Has developed a new lithium ion battery with a higher voltage than 5V expecting huge market off car electronics.

10. Fuji Chimera Research (Market Research firm in Japan) 4/7

Has forecasted 40 trillion yens for the global market of auto electronics by 2030. Key technologies will be ADAS, Driver monitoring, and Auto driving system.

Recent Articles of DKN Research

Please find the full articles at the following web site.

<http://www.dknresearchllc.com/DKNRArchive/Articles/Articles.html>