

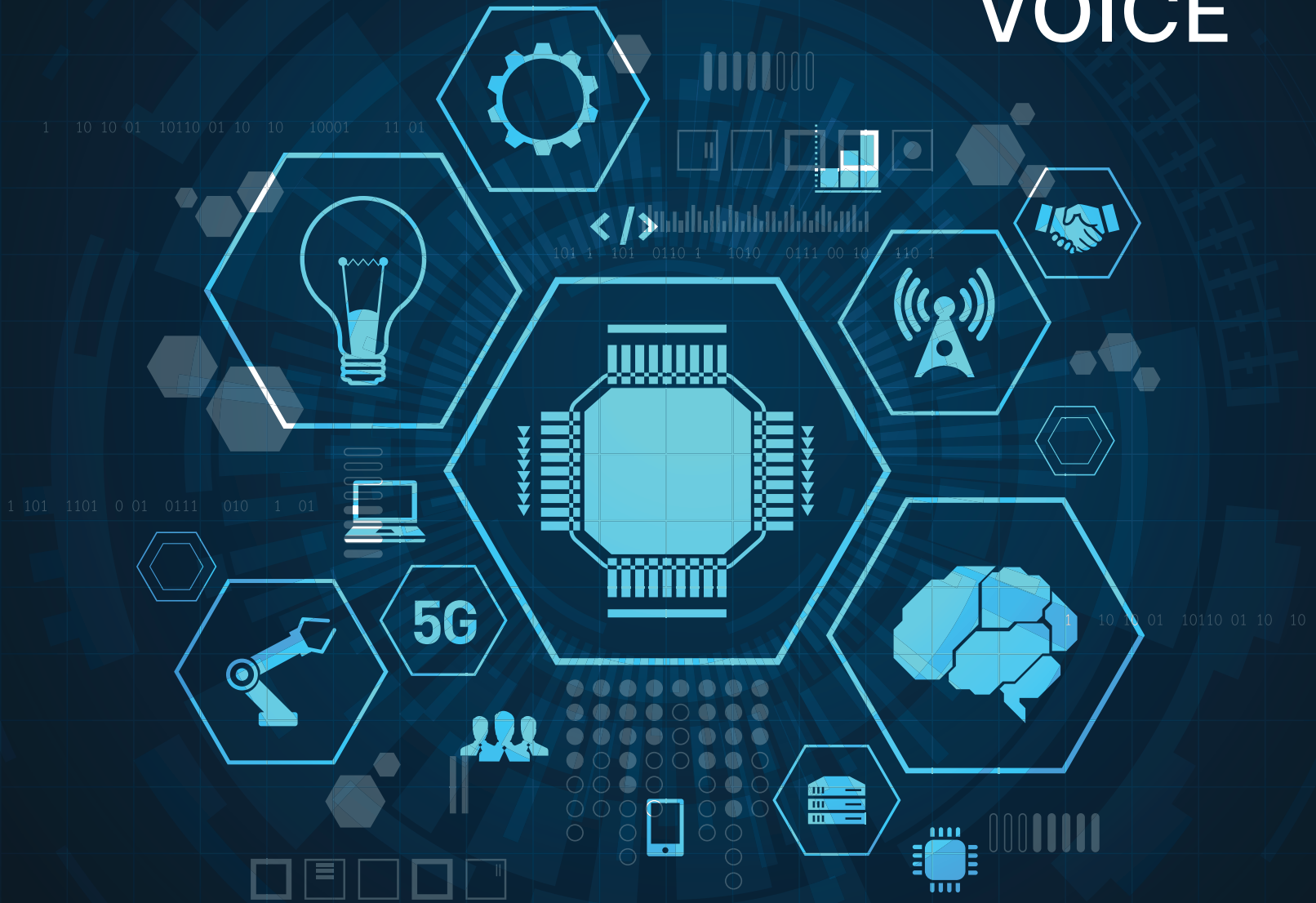
SINGAPORE

Volume 15

SEMICONDUCTOR

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VOICE



STRENGTHENING AND GROWING THE SEMICONDUCTOR LOCAL ECOSYSTEM

The Automation and Robotics Consortium

GlobalFoundries New S\$5B Singapore Fab to ramp up in 2023

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UTAC's New Wafer Bumping Process in Singapore.

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In recent news, chip shortage continues to dent new electric vehicle rollout, what is your view of the demand and supply of semiconductor?

Asif: The market clearly underestimated the demand for semiconductors, especially for the automotive sector. The automotive market took a significant hit during the first half of 2020 due to COVID19 but the fast recovery during the second half caught many by surprise. The semiconductor companies were also unprepared for the recent acceleration of the sales of electric vehicles. With the demand surging from almost all other market segments as well, the whole semiconductor supply chain is struggling to keep up with the demand not only from the automotive customers but across almost all product markets.

Interestingly, COVID19 had some unintended and perhaps unforeseen, positive consequences for some of the key sectors of the semiconductor market. As companies implemented 'working from home' policy for better part of 2020, which is still being continued in most countries, it requires employees to have PCs and laptops, significantly increasing the sale of PCs and peripheral equipment. In 2020, 275 million PCs were shipped, almost a 5% increase from 2019 - highest year over year growth for PC shipment during the last ten years. Similarly, due to travel restrictions, people staying at home got more involved in on-line shopping, social media and watching TV series and movies in outlets such as Netflix and Amazon, soaring the demand for servers and storage which in turn created a significant demand in semiconductor devices, particularly for power products. This created

Enabling WLCSP Full Turnkey Solution Within The Island

Asif Chowdhury is the Senior Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Business Development at UTAC Group located in Singapore. He is also the head of UTAC Japan, in charge of Japan sales and business development. Over thirty years of experience in the semiconductor industry, he has worked in various aspects of semiconductor assembly and test industry including package design and development, product and business line management, R&D and business development.



a demand that out-stripped the supply across the semiconductor supply chain. With the dip of automotive demand in first half of 2020, the capacity was allocated towards some of these other market sectors. We believe that the chip shortage, especially for the automotive sector, will likely continue through the end of 2021 at a minimum.

Understand that UTAC has recently acquired / built a new WLCSP facility, how will this support the immediate customer demand?

Asif: In January of this year, we acquired a wafer bumping facility in Singapore from a Taiwanese OSAT. We have been doing WLCSP back-end processing in Singapore for many years including wafer probe. So, the bumping facility nicely complements our WLCSP

back-end operation and now enables us to provide our customer one-stop full turnkey solution within the island. We have won several new opportunities in the new facility for full turnkey as well as wafer bumping services. Some of our existing customers for WLCSP backend are working closely with us to do full turnkey in Singapore.

With the new facility expansion, how do you think the local SMEs and suppliers can support UTAC more?

Asif: The semiconductor supply chain is global. However, many of the equipment and material suppliers have significant presence in Asia and with many of the SMEs having their Asia headquarter based in Singapore. It is very helpful to have this direct access to key suppliers especially as we plan to increase

our wafer bumping capacity in the coming years.

What is the opportunity for the local workforce?

Asif: We retained most of the employees when we acquired the wafer bumping facility. We plan to increase our capacity through next year. We are also investing in new technology related to wafer services such as plasma dicing. Hence, we plan to hire local semiconductor talents as we grow our wafer bumping business in Singapore and introduce new advanced process technology.

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SSIA Welcomes New Members





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