



For immediate release

CST Global Ltd, Renishaw Plc and Heriot-Watt University to collaborate on integrated chip-scale fabrication

Cross-disciplinary team to employ III-V compound semiconductor integration techniques to meet the demand for low-cost, hi-resolution measurement solutions

Edinburgh, Scotland, January 31st

The consortium will collaborate on a 2 year project worth £0.4M, part funded by the UK Department of Trade and Industry under the Technology Programme.

The precision of automated manufacture and assembly has been revolutionised by the adoption of optical measurement methods. Optical transducers are pervasive in almost all sectors of industry including metrology, motion systems, electronics, semiconductor handling, medical, scanning/ printing, scientific instruments, photolithographic equipment, and specialist machine tools.

The project will apply monolithic integration and wafer scale packaging techniques to produce optical transducer solutions which will be an order of magnitude cheaper and smaller than existing commercially available discrete products, and push the state of the art for a mass manufacturable solution to new levels of performance.

CST Global will employ advanced compound semiconductor fabrication techniques on device designs derived with Renishaw, whilst the Micro Systems Engineering Centre at Heriot-Watt University will develop ultra-compact packaging solutions. Renishaw will take module level solutions from concept to market volume as valuable new additions to existing product lines.

CST Project Lead Dr Wyn Meredith commented

'This is an excellent opportunity to lever UK opto-electronic expertise into new industrial markets. We're teaming up with a recognised leader in the metrology field with the global market presence to fully exploit this technology. It's a classic example of how innovation funding will facilitate continued value-added manufacturing in the UK.'

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Profiles

CST is a 'pure play' semiconductor foundry specialising in the development, and manufacture of discrete and integrated III-V opto-electronic devices, based in Glasgow, UK. Since 1999, CST has provided specialist foundry services to clients in the Telecommunications, Defence, Medical and Instrumentation markets. CST offers full product support from design to manufacturing, levered off a comprehensive library of qualified fabrication processes and a suite of high performance device platforms. CST serves both fabless and vertically integrated customers in UK, US, Europe and Japan, and is recognised as a flagship project for the UK opto-electronics industry.

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Renishaw Plc are world leaders in industrial metrology and are now in the top 200 UK companies. Through the design, manufacture, supply and support of metrology systems of the highest quality, customers worldwide are able to carry out measurements to traceable international standards. Around 90% of turnover comes from exports, whilst research, design and manufacture are committed to UK. At the forefront of automated metrology, the Group's expertise has expanded to cover the fields of calibration, motion control and materials analysis. Its markets are global and cover a diverse range of sectors including aerospace and automotive manufacture, electronic production, semiconductor fabrication, forensic science and cutting edge research.

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The Micro Systems Engineering Centre at Heriot-Watt University is at the forefront of the development of advanced opto-electronic packaging solutions at chip and wafer levels. The Centre, via the Scottish Manufacturing Institute, is the leader of a £4M grant from EPSRC for novel manufacturing techniques of 3D tightly integrated miniaturised components.

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