

## **Frost & Sullivan Bestows European Enabling Technology Award in Real-Time 3D Imaging on PMDTechnologies GmbH**

The Frost & Sullivan '2009 European Real-Time 3D Imaging Enabling Technology Innovation Award' is presented to PMDTechnologies GmbH (PMDTec).

"Photonic mixer device (PMD) technology developed by PMDTechnologies GmbH has opened up opportunities to develop three-dimensional imaging devices that are low cost, complex and robust," notes Frost & Sullivan Industry Analyst Agata Jozwicka. "The technology has significant market acceptance potential in diverse application areas, including automotive, automation, medical, security, gaming, and many others."

PMDTechnologies continuously focuses on improvement of already developed technology and services that it is currently providing. Future developments will include integration of more functionality on the image sensor itself.

Currently, PMDTechnologies is working on 0.18-micron CMOS technology integration. Such an approach would lead to the creation of even smaller 3D imaging devices which could be available at lower cost. The company envisions such a camera for below \$30 soon. Such performance at this price point has not been achieved using other 3D approaches, e.g. fringe projection based 3D vision systems, so far.

"As the solution developed by PMDTechnologies enables the development of cameras that are very small and relatively cheap, it can be used for 3D image detection in multiple application areas," remarks Jozwicka. "Other 3D vision sensing approaches, in general, are less flexible in approaching potential application areas."

IFM Electronics GmbH, specializing in the industrial automation sensing, has included in its product offerings the 3D camera developed in cooperation with PMDTechnologies and provides this solution to about 80,000 customers worldwide. In co-operation with Audi and Volkswagen, PMDTechnologies is already in the pre-fabrication stage of 3D sensors for automotive applications. Moreover, with other partners, the company is also developing solutions for medical, security & surveillance, and gaming application areas.

"Supported by solid shareholders, the company has made commendable achievements in terms of approaching a broad spectrum of customers across various application sectors by forging global sales partnerships," states Jozwicka. "Moreover, the company is continuously looking for new opportunities and partnerships with other leading players on the market thus evolving to be the most preferred provider of the core technology for 3D imaging solutions in Europe."

For the Enabling Technology Award, the following criteria were used to benchmark PMDTechnologies's performance against key competitors: Creation of new technologies and/or products, enhancement of current products, ability to get into new applications, industry standard; market acceptance potential, delivery of the technology to the market and end-user transition and recognition.

Frost & Sullivan Best Practices Awards recognise companies in a variety of regional and global markets for demonstrating outstanding achievement and superior performance in areas such as leadership, technological innovation, customer service, and strategic product development. Industry analysts compare market participants and measure performance through in-depth interviews, analysis, and extensive secondary research in order to identify best practices in the industry.

### **About PMDTechnologies GmbH**

PMDTec, a fabless integrated circuit manufacturer, is the worldwide leading 3D CMOS-based digital imaging supplier. The company was founded in 2002 as a spin-off from the Center for Sensor Systems at the University of Siegen. PMDTechnologies GmbH owns about 40 patents worldwide concerning PMD based applications, the PMD principle and its realization. By 2008, the company had sold some 100,000 PMD sensors in various markets and applications. The company is open for collaboration and looks for new application areas through potential partnerships with key players in each relevant application sector. The PMDTec Corporation employs about 50 people working mainly on the chip design, quality assurance and in the area of pre-series and product development. For more information, please visit <http://www.PMDTec.com>.

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