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## Science and technology News

- **NEC Unveils 90-Nanometer Embedded DRAM Technology** New ZrO<sub>2</sub> Dielectric Material Increases Performance of CMOS-Compatible Embedded DRAMNEC Electronics Corporation today announced its new metal insulator metal (MIM) technology for 90 nanometer embedded DRAM (eDRAM), called MIM2. In addition, to meet the technical challenges presented by moving the company's established CMOS-compatible eDRAM technology to a 90 nm process, NEC Electronics, ahead of other vendors, has adopted the use of zirconium oxide (ZrO<sub>2</sub>), a new dielectric material with a higher-k factor that allows the embedded DRAM's smaller bit cells to retain storage capacitance. With this new ZrO<sub>2</sub> technology, NEC Electronics, a leader and pioneer of CMOS-compatible eDRAM, is well positioned to move its eDRAM technology to even smaller process geometries as it evolves.
- **Bell Labs Heads Research To Use Nanograss In Advanced Electronic And Photonic...** Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs today announced the launch of a new research project that aims to use nano-textured surfaces to solve the extreme thermal management challenges of advanced electronic and photonic systems. The team will be spearheaded by researchers from Bell Labs' new research laboratory in Blanchardstown, Dublin, who, in collaboration with three Irish universities and Bell Labs researchers in Murray Hill, N.J., will use "nanograss", a Bell Labs-engineered surface that contains billions of tiny silicon posts, to study the effectiveness of transferring heat from silicon surfaces to liquid coolants.
- **Scientists Grow Thermoelectric Cobaltate Thin Films on Silicon** Thin films made of so-called thermoelectric materials could be used to convert heat directly into electric energy, or vice versa, for a variety of applications, including micro-chip-based chemical and biological sensors and more-efficient ways to cool computer chips. Thermoelectrics also hold promise for clean-energy generation because they transform heat into electrical energy without producing carbon dioxide or other emissions.
- **Curious female rats survive tumors longer** Curious female rats, more willing to step out and explore their environment, survive breast and pituitary tumors longer than their more cautious sisters, said a Penn State researcher. Sonia Cavigelli, assistant professor of biobehavioral health, said that her study of 80 female rats from birth to death shows that the curious ones with tumors lived, on average, an additional six months, or 25 percent longer lives, than the cautious ones.
- **Study shows faces are processed like words** Although they are dramatically different, **words** and **faces** are both recognized by parts, according to a study published in February in the Journal of Vision, an online, free access publication of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). It has been suggested that **faces** and **words** are recognized differently, that **faces** are identified by wholes, whereas **words** and other objects are identified by parts. However, Marialuisa Martelli, Najib Majaj, and Denis Pelli, three neuroscientists from New York University, conducted a study that finds individuals use letters to recognize **words** and facial features to recognize **faces**.
- **Rosetta's view of Earth** After skimming by the Earth at just 1954 km on 4 March 2005, Rosetta turned its Navigation Cameras back towards our home planet and recorded a series of black and white images.
- **Talk It Up! New Motorola Gateways Make Voice-over-IP and Home Networking Easy** The Motorola VT2000 Series of Voice Gateways offer Service Providers a Reliable Platform for Delivering Internet Telephony Services Motorola, Inc. today introduced a new family of plug-and-play gateways that combine voice-over-IP (VoIP) telephone calling and home networking in one simple device. The new Motorola VT2000 Series Voice Gateways power two lines of telephony service through a home, using a cable or DSL connection and an existing VoIP service.

### **Radio Tags Can Find Stray Bags, but Can Airlines Afford Them?**

Cash-strapped airlines are having trouble investing in new tracking systems that could reduce problems with lost luggage.

### **Texas Instruments Lowers Its Sights on Sales**

Texas Instruments, one of the world's biggest makers of cellphone semiconductors, said on Monday that first-quarter sales and profit would be at the low end of forecasts.

### **On eBay, E-Mail Phishers Find a Well-Stocked Pond**

EBay's domination of the online auction business and its heavy dependence on e-mail communication make its users particularly vulnerable to online scams.

### **At a Suit's Core: Are Bloggers Reporters, Too?**

A lawsuit filed in California by Apple Computer is drawing the courts into that question: Who should be considered a journalist?

### **A.T.M.'s Pick Up Web Site Tricks**

To attract more Internet customers, some banks are adding services available on their Web sites to their A.T.M.'s.

The sleek, silver box is easy to install - just connect a broadband modem and a standard telephone handset. In a matter of minutes, consumers can begin enjoying the freedom of wireless connectivity and the cost savings that come from making phone calls over the Internet.

• **Philips enables high-definition video with Nexperia PNX1700 media processor** Award-winning super-pipelined TriMedia core delivers unprecedented picture quality from diverse media formats. Royal Philips Electronics today introduced the PNX1700, the newest member of the company's Nexperia™ family of media processors with high-definition (HD) capabilities. Combining media processing, network connectivity and display enhancement on a single chip, the PNX1700 is designed to deliver unprecedented picture quality of streaming movies, news, digital photos and TV programs. It doubles the performance of previous generations while maintaining both hardware and software compatibility. Digital Connected Consumer devices enabled by the PNX1700 include IP set-top boxes, digital media adapters, personal video recorders, videophones and TVs.

• **Cadence Delivers Industry's First Full-chip Test Technology** Cadence Design Systems, Inc. today announced Cadence Encounter Test Architect, the industry's first full-chip test architecture development product. It includes the industry's first unified compiler-based methodology for full-chip test. The result is faster development of a higher-quality test infrastructure than is currently possible with point test tools. Based on a unique test infrastructure compiler, Encounter Test Architect supports a unified methodology for specifying, compiling, and verifying full-chip test. This includes scan, compression, memory BIST, on-product clock generation, boundary scan, and I/O test.

• **IMEC and CoWare strengthen relationship for multi-mode multimedia development** IMEC and CoWare have signed a letter of intent to collaborate on the development of an integrated design flow for efficiently mapping advanced multimedia and wireless applications on a flexible and programmable platform. The design flow is an integral part of IMEC's multi-mode multimedia (M4) program and will be used to develop software-defined radio and multi-format multimedia codecs. The two organizations intend to close the gap between IMEC's proprietary research tools and CoWare's electronic system-level (ESL) design tools.

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