



NEWS Macworld 2009 Predictions



NEWS Nintendo: "There's no way to know if we'll have enough Wii consoles for the holidays"

NEWS Solar power stocks drop as orders are canceled

Business & Finance

« Back to the top page

Sandbridge Technologies' Holy Grail cell phone chip gets software partners

VentureBeat

Dean Takahashi, VentureBeat 12.11.2008

Tags Business & Finance Business and Technology co:3dv systems co:Catchyoo co:gesturtek co:reactrix co:sandbridge co:sony DigitalMedia inv:D.E.-Shaw-&Co. inv:Menlo-Ventures inv:Mobius-Venture-Capital inv:Thomas-Weisel-Venture-Partners inv:WorldView-Technology-Partners video games

Comments 0

Like the story? Get Alerts of big news events. Enter your email address. Your email address SUBMIT. Daily Weekly Qualified 3rd Parties



Technologies has made a big bet on creating power-efficient chips that are flexible enough to handle a lot of different cell phone signals, including next-generation

wireless technologies. Today, it's announcing it has lined up cell phone software developers to help it offer complete solutions for its customers.

The Tarrytown, N.Y.-based company has designed a baseband processor for a cell phone that some view as a Holy Grail of wireless computing. This chip can be reprogrammed on the fly to handle almost any signal, whether it's a WiMax or Long Term Evolution (LTE) next-generation network call, a CDMA call on an older U.S. network, or a GSM call in Europe. In other words, using these chips, it would be easy to create a powerful cell phone with high-speed data that works anywhere in the world.



This should make things interesting for Sandbridge's competitors such as Qualcomm. With the Sandbridge chip, just about every phone could have fully functional broadcast TV video and internet speeds that should be much faster than home computers (assuming the phone's network has the right infrastructure built). But the software that makes 4G wireless (WiMax and LTE) work is critical. The chips have to be easily programmable. That is, if only the biggest companies can afford to design software and phones around the chips, then they aren't as useful to the broader market. But by adding these software partners, Sandbridge is making sure that the chips can be broadly adopted.

It has signed agreements with 4G software developers MimoOn of Germany and 4M Wireless of England for LTE software. And it has also signed up SeaSolve of San Jose, Calif., to make software for mobile WiMax phones.

Sandbridge was founded in 2001 and currently has about 49 people on staff. It raised \$60 million in three rounds from Tallwood Venture Capital, Summerhill Venture Partners, and Doughty Hanson. The company's engineers figured out clever tricks to create what they call a "responsive processor," or one that can be interrupted in midstream. The processor has many active elements, but it isn't a nightmare to program like other complex chips.

Reprinted with permission from VentureBeat. Story copyright 2008 VentureBeat Inc. All rights reserved.

See Also

- Nintendo claims November sales records, but NPD suggests "multiple victors" in console wars
Interview with Arvind Sodhani: Intel Capital isn't backing off on venture
Governments line up to bail out DRAM makers

Recent News

- Nintendo claims November sales records, but NPD suggests "multiple victors" in console wars
Alcatel-Lucent will cut WiMax investment to reduce costs
T-Mobile music store boosted by Last.fm

[About](#) [Contact](#) [Advertise](#) [Team Blog](#) [Feedback](#) [Help](#) [Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Participate](#)

Copyright © 1997-2008 The Industry Standard. All Rights reserved.

IDG NETWORK:

[CIO](#) [Computerworld](#) [CSO](#) [DEMO](#) [GamePro](#) [Games.net](#) [IDG Connect](#) [IDG World Expo](#) [IT World](#) [InfoWorld](#) [JavaWorld](#) [LinuxWorld](#) [Macuser](#) [Macworld](#) [Network World](#) [Playlist](#) [PC World](#)