Comparing Chipset Platforms:

Nuts and Bolts of Video Surveillance

Video surveillance plays a vital role in security. As the entire industry continues to migrate from analog to digital, semiconductors need to evolve as well to better cater to ever-increasing needs for higher quality and processing speeds. *A&S* explores the latest statistics, trends and applications in chipsets for surveillance equipment.

BY THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Most in the video surveillance industry agree that the worldwide market for security-related video chipsets will exceed US$1 billion between 2011 and 2012, similar to iSuppli's projection of $1.25 billion by 2011. According to Mike Long, Marketing Manager for Surveillance and Machine Vision Solutions, DSP Group, Analog Devices, the bulk of the business calls for use of DSPs, SoCs and ASSPs/ASICs (application-specific standard products or integrated circuits).

When looking at regional uptake, North America and Europe account for the lion's share at the moment, suggested Danny Petkevich, Video Surveillance and Imaging Business Manager, and Eldon Teng, Asia Business Development Manger for DSP/MCU Products, Texas Instruments. Figures from Altera second this observation, as Asia, Europe, North America and the rest of the world take up 20, 35, 30 and 15 percent, respectively, of the global market share.

It was predicted that Asia will catch up quickly and become dominant, though, "as the United States and Europe slow down in 2009," said Rajeev Kaushal, Head of eInfochips Pune Division, eInfochips. This growth can be attributed to the ever-expanding OEM/ODM base in Asia, added Bengt Christensson, VP of Business Development for Stream Processors. By 2011, said Long, Southeast Asia alone could be consuming 33 percent of the global output.

DISTINCTIONS

DSPs allow for shorter time to market and offer flexibility and improved interoperability for emerging standards. There are, however, certain functions that cannot be supported by traditional, general-purpose DSPs. This can lead to time-consuming reprogramming and may result in lower performance.

Companies such as Axis Communications and