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Archive



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## The Future of Advanced Packaging: Challenges Ahead

- TRACK INNOVATION
- IDENTIFY TRENDS
- ANALYZE GROWTH
- INFLUENCE DECISIONS

**E. Jan Vardaman, President and  
Founder**

RELEVANT, ACCURATE, TIMELY



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## Industry Trends



- **Smartphones still represent large volumes, even with slower growth**
  - Drives WLP and FO-WLP volumes
  - Drives system-in-package (SiP)
- **Connectivity trends and 5G drive changes in packaging**
  - IoT drives demand for sensors
  - 5G drives new RF module designs
- **Big data analytics drives high-performance packaging**
  - Driving Si interposer and FO on substrate
  - Strong demand for HBM
  - Heterogeneous integration

## WLPs Increase Count in iPhone....

- First iPhone contained 2 WLPs, and it was a big deal
- The iPhone 8 Plus contained ~60 WLPs, and it is a bigger deal
  - One is FO-WLP (TSMC's InFO)
  - Additional 59 on main board plus WLPs in lightning cable, earbud, etc.



Source: TPSS.

2 WLPs



iPhone  
2007  
techsearchinc.com

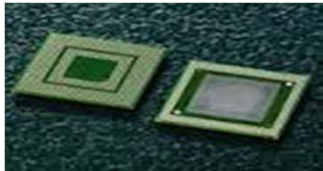
~60 WLPs




iPhone 8 Plus  
2017  
TechSearch  
INTERNATIONAL

## Migration to FO-WLP

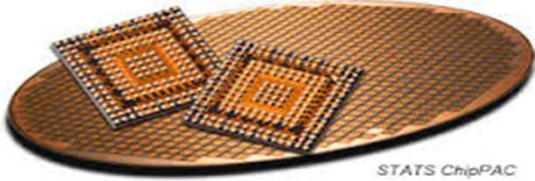
**FC-CSP**




**Fan-in WLP**




**FO-WLP (many versions)**



STATS ChipPAC

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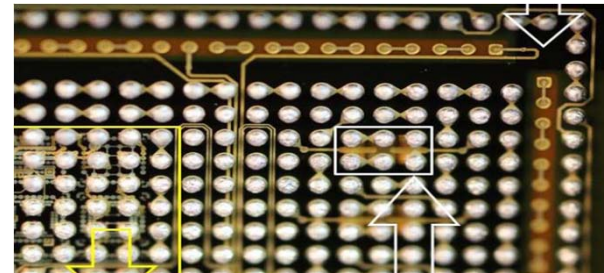
## Why FO-WLP?

- **Smaller form factor, lower profile package: similar to conventional WLP in profile**
- **Thinner than flip chip package (no substrate)**
- **Support increased I/O density**
  - Fine L/S (10/10 $\mu$ m)
  - Roadmaps for <5/5 $\mu$ m L/S, future 2/2 $\mu$ m L/S
- **Split die package or multi-die package/SiP**
  - Multiple die in package possible
  - Die fabricated from different technology nodes can be assembled in a single package
  - Can integrate passives
- **Excellent electrical and thermal performance**
  - Future silicon technology nodes  $\leq$  5nm will require interconnect with greater density for high density, tight pitch Cu pillar
  - Pad pitch of < 55  $\mu$ m will be required and laminate can not achieve

## Growing Number of FO-WLP Applications

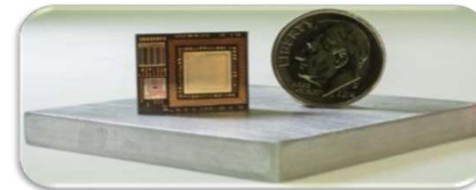
- Baseband processors
- Application processors
- RF transceivers, switches, etc.
- Power management integrated circuits (PMIC)
- Connectivity modules (IoT)
- Radar modules (77GHz) for automotive
- Audio CODECs
- Microcontrollers
- Logic + memory
  - Data center servers, networking, AI etc. (Fan-out on substrate)
  - Future AP + DRAM for mobile possible
- Sensors (fingerprint, image, etc.)
- Many multi-die configurations

Multidie FO-WLP



Source: Amkor Technology (Nanium).

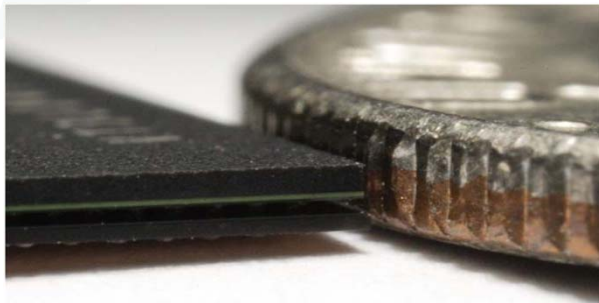
IoT Module



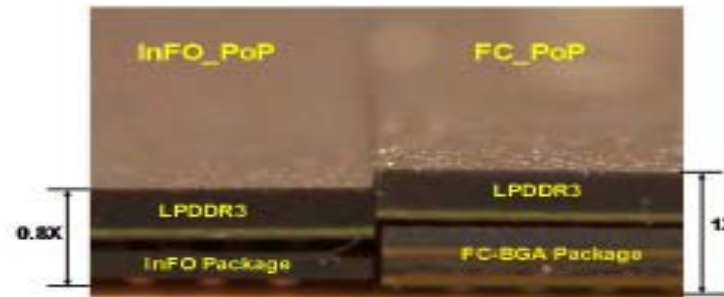
Source: Nepes.



## TSMC's InFO for Apple's Application Processors



Source: TSMC.



Source: TSMC.



Source:  
TechInsights.

- Die-first, face-up process, RDL formed on top of Cu pillars on die
- Improved electrical and thermal performance of InFO vs. FC-CSP
- Thinner than flip chip package (no substrate)
  - InFO-PoP is 20% thinner than FC-PoP, but thin is not only driver
  - Future silicon technology nodes 7nm and 5nm will require interconnect with greater density for high density, tight pitch Cu pillar

## Large Area Panel Processing

- **Higher throughput and lower manufacturing cost are main drivers for large area panel processing**
  - Some estimate as much as 25 to 30% cost reduction
  - Unit density increase on panel vs. that achieved on wafer lead to higher throughput (more parts)
- **Major challenges**
  - Panel warpage and handling
  - Die shift
  - How do we test and inspect in panel?
- **Material requirements**
  - Low stress materials to control warpage (less shrinkage)
  - Low-CTE materials and low process temperatures
  - Low-k polymers and low loss polymers for RF
- **Need high volume of a package that is not too small**



## Consortia and Companies Working on Panel FO-WLP

- **Companies**

- SEMCO in Korea
- Nepes in Korea
- Powertech Technology (PTI) in Taiwan
- Unimicron in Taiwan
- ASE/Deca in Taiwan

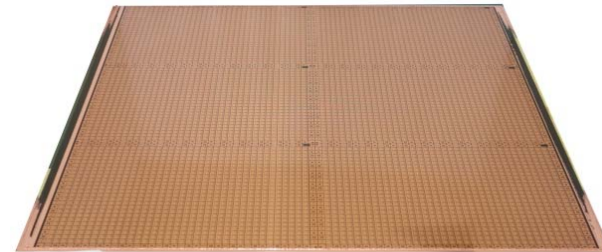
- **Consortia**

- Fraunhofer IZM
- FOPLP Consortium (ASMPT promoting) in Hong Kong
- IME A\*STAR in Singapore
- ITRI in Taiwan
- NCAP in China
- Jisso Open Innovation of Tops in Japan (New)



## Panel-Level FO-WLP Activity

- **PTI is qualified with its panel FO-WLP line**
  - Uses chip first process
  - PMIC from MediaTek (1 RDL, 15 $\mu$ m L/S)
- **SEMCO in production with panel FO-WLP for Samsung Gear watch**
  - Application processor and PMIC with backside RDL
  - Backside RDL for memory stacking to form PoP
  - Thin solution
- **NEPES demonstrated panel FO-WLP for fingerprint sensors**
- **Unimicron continues R&D activity for panel**



Source: PTI.



Image courtesy of Samsung.



Source: Nepes Corp.



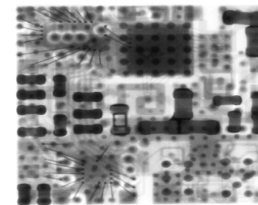


## SiPs Commonly Found in Mobile Devices: Highest Volume

- Power amplifier module (PA)
- Front end module (FEM)
- Transceiver + RF frontend
- Some SSDs (with controller, NAND memory, and power source)
- Connectivity modules
- Power management module
- MEMS integration with ASIC (this could be stacked in a QFN)
- 3G/4G modem

RF module typically contains filters, antennas, and switches (CMOS and/or GaAs)

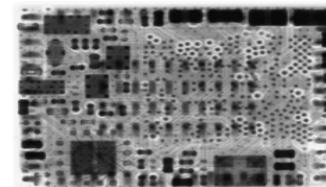
Avago PA module includes FBAR



4.4 x 4.25 x 0.88mm  
FLGA with 18 pads

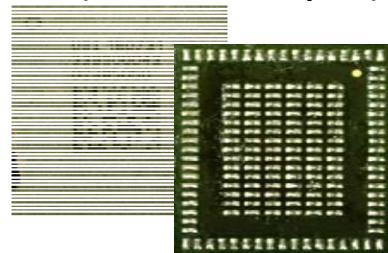
Murata WiFi 802.11/  
Bluetooth / FM Radio  
module

9.8 x 7.5mm LGA with 58  
pads



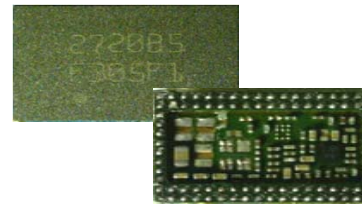
## WiFi/Bluetooth/FM Connectivity Modules

WiFi/BT/FM Module  
(Manufactured by USI)



9.0 mm x 11.7 mm x 0.8 mm  
FLGA with 72 lands

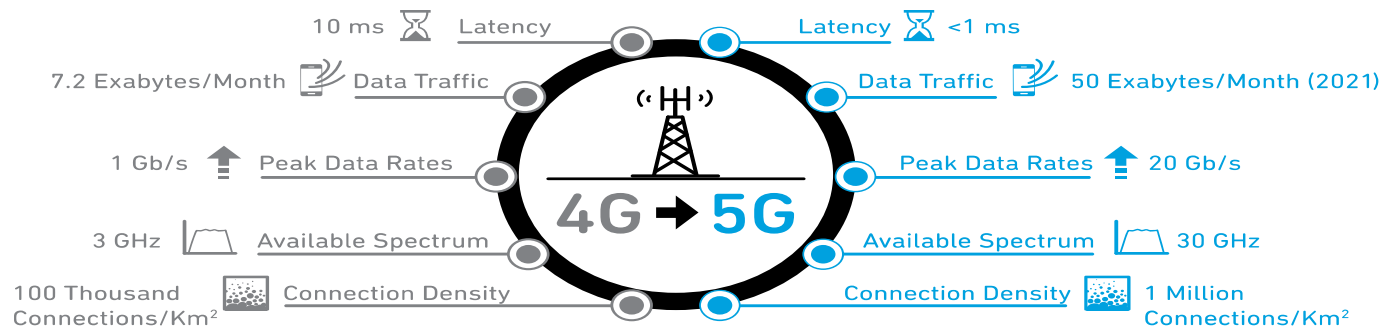
WiFi/BT/FM Module  
(Manufactured by Murata)



9.3 mm x 6.3 mm x 1.1 mm  
FBGA with 84 balls

Source: TPSS.

## Comparison of 4G and 5G Performance and Specifications



Source: Qorvo.

- **5G promises higher data rates, lower latency, greater reliability, and larger capacity**
- **5G infrastructure is moving into place**
  - Long development cycle, 6 GHz smartphone ramp in 2019
  - U.S. focus on mmWave 28-39 GHz bands because FCC has not released sub-6 GHz spectrum for 5G at 3.5 GHz to match with ROW
  - China focused on 2.6, 3.5, and 4.9 GHz bands in 2019
- **IDC projects 200 million 5G-enabled smartphones will ship in 2022**

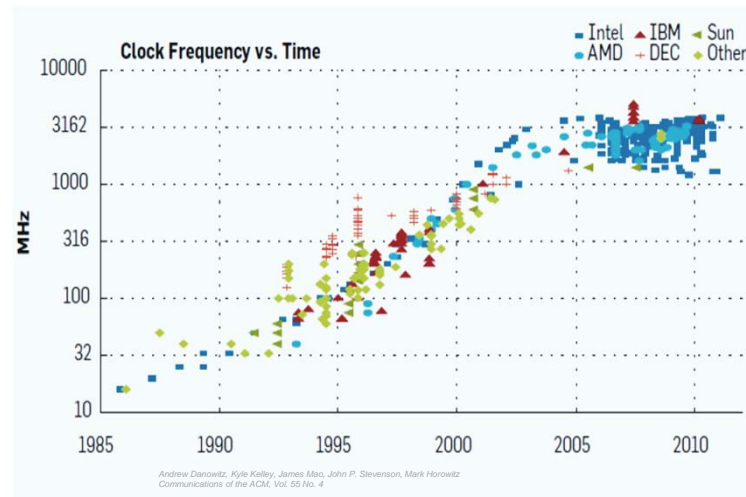
## Future Trends for RF Modules: 5G

- **5G New Radio offers high bandwidth, low latency, and massive scalability of 5G**
  - High-performance baseband processors
  - Broadband, steerable, and high gain mmWave antennas
  - Efficient and broadband mmWave front-end ICs
  - RF components for co-design of mmWave antennas and front-end ICs with high-Q inductors, filters, power dividers, phase shifters, and attenuators
- **5G potentially means new radios, new modems, new PA, and new FEM**
  - Greater modularization expected
  - System-in-package designs with fully integrated antenna (so antenna design capabilities are important)
  - Thermal and electrical modeling become more critical
  - Electromagnetic compatibility and EMI shielding become more important
- **Test is critical**



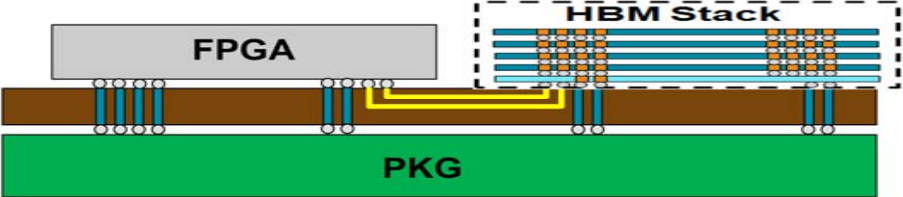
## Trends Driving Heterogeneous Integration

- **With the move to each new silicon node, Moore's law (observation) has fulfilled the economic and technology promises of**
  - Density scaling
  - Speed scaling
  - Power scaling
  - Cost scaling
- **CPU architectures are not scaling**
  - Processor frequency scaling ended in 2007
  - Multicore architecture scaling has flattened
- **As the industry moves to the next silicon nodes (7nm, etc.) new packaging solutions are needed to achieve the economic advantages that were previously met with silicon scaling**
- **Heterogeneous integration provides a solution**
  - Silicon interposers
  - Alternatives such as Intel's EMIB or Fan-out on Substrate



Source: Xilinx.

## Xilinx Heterogeneous Integration





The diagram illustrates a cross-sectional view of a heterogeneous integration package. At the base is a green substrate labeled 'PKG'. Above it is a brown silicon interposer. On the left side of the interposer, a grey rectangular block labeled 'FPGA' is mounted. On the right side, a stack of blue and orange layers is labeled 'HBM Stack'. Vertical blue lines with circular bases, representing Through-Silicon Vias (TSVs), connect the FPGA and HBM Stack to the interposer. Yellow lines show the routing of signals between the FPGA and the HBM Stack through these TSVs. The text '“Logic & Memory”' is positioned to the right of the diagram.

“Logic & Memory”

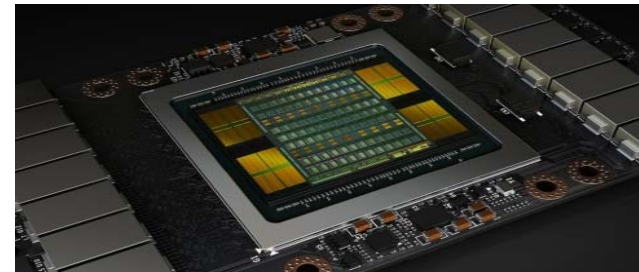
Source: Xilinx.

- **Silicon interposer with TSVs to handle communication between HBM stack and FPGA**

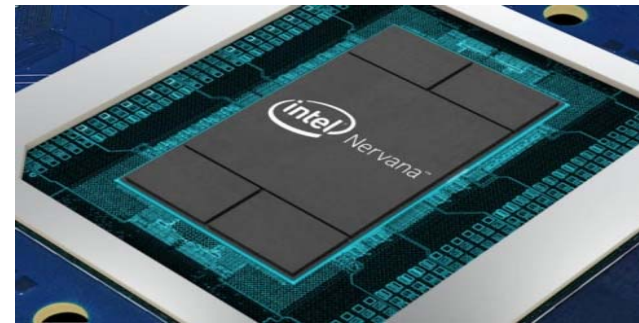
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## What's Driving Demand for Si Interposers?

- AI accelerators in datacenters to increase to 50% by 2020
- Network systems
- Graphics market



Source: NVIDIA.



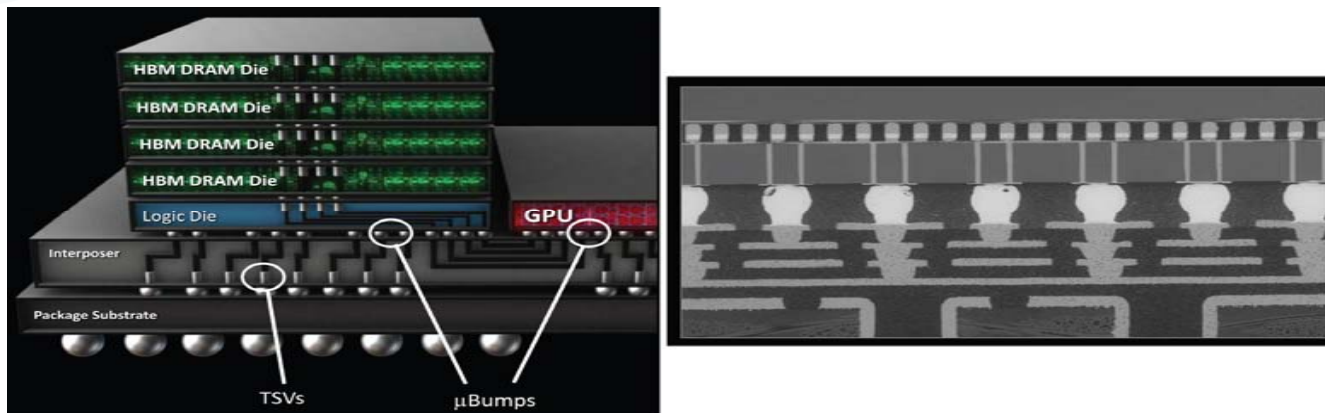
Source: Intel.

## AI Accelerators Using Heterogeneous Integration

- **Logic and high capacity memory as close as possible to provide low latency and lower power**
  - Use of large die (up to 28 mm x 28 mm) with high I/O counts and micro bumps
  - Use of HBM with wide bus (1,024 I/Os, ~4,000 bumps, 55 $\mu$ m micro bump pitch)
  - Mount on silicon interposer with TSVs (or high-density alternative) with as small a gap as possible, TCE matched to provide good reliability for logic die with ELK
  - Silicon interposer mounted on laminate substrate with C4 bumps (~130 $\mu$ m bump pitch)
- **Si interposers provide a high-density routing connection between logic and memory**
  - Silicon interposers are the only solution  $\leq 1\mu$ m for routing today




## AMD's "Fiji" with Silicon Interposer and HBM



Source: AMD.



- AMD "Fiji" solution for the graphics market
- Four HBM stacks, each containing stacked DRAMs and a logic die with TSVs mounted on a 1,011mm<sup>2</sup> Si interposer
  - Approximately 200,000 interconnects in the module including Cu pillar microbumps and C4 bumps
  - Si interposer has 65,000 TSVs with 10μm-diameter vias

## Test Strategy: Key To AMD Success



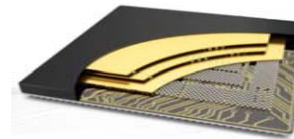
Source: ASE and AMD.

- Wafer sort (important to consider probe tip, pad size, and control of probe mark)
- Partial assembly test (unique to this application, LGA pad surface finish, contact force control, yield repeatability, and contamination control)
- Final test (thermal management important)

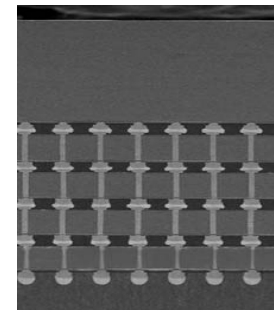
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## 3D IC: Memory Stacks with TSV

- **Tezzaron high-speed memory**
  - High-performance applications shipped
- **Samsung RDIMM with stacked memory for servers**
  - Modules delivered in Sept. 2014, in production in 2015
  - DRAM stacks with TSVs
- **SK Hynix (HBM)**
  - Stacked die mounted on interposer
  - GPU, etc. applications
- **Micron HBM...coming soon**



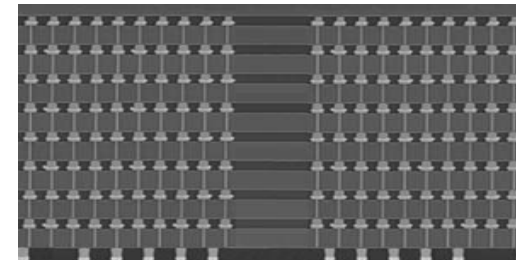
Source: Samsung.



Source: SK Hynix.

## HBM Test and Test Vehicle Development

- **Stacked die with TSVs requirements**
  - Well joined TSV/micro bumps
  - Well aligned micro bumps
  - No underfill delamination or voids
- **Test vehicles TSV stacked memory**
  - Robustness of TSVs and micro bumps important
  - All test patterns electrically tested in test vehicles
- **Bump pitch**
  - Bottom die bump diameter 25 $\mu$ m
  - Bottom die bump pitch 55 $\mu$ m staggered for HBM versus 100 $\mu$ m for HMC
  - Bump pitch between die 40  $\mu$ m (Cu pillar)



## Nokia's FP<sub>4</sub> with Si Interposer and Memory

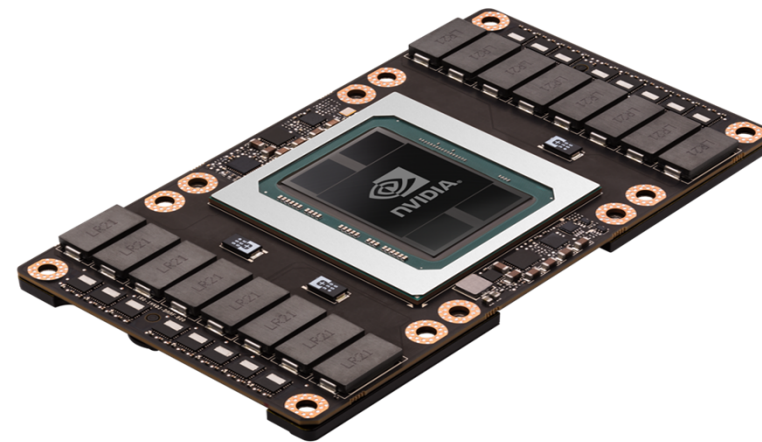
- **First 2.4Tb/s network processor**
  - Uses Si interposer and HBM
  - Occupies one-fifth the board space of the previous generation of FP silicon
  - 22 dies – 1 packet processor ASIC, 16 memory, 4 MAC chips + interposer
  - Uses TSMC 16FF+ for ASIC
  - Cuts power consumption in half (per Tb), up to 250% greater port fan-in/fan-out.
  - Assembled with TSMC's CoWoS process





## NVIDIA's GPU + HBM

- NVIDIA's GPU with Cu pillar mounted on a 100 $\mu$ m-thick silicon interposer with TSVs using TSMC's CoWoS process
- Four HBMs with 8 DRAMs per stack plus logic layer are also mounted on the silicon interposer (HBM with 55 $\mu$ m pitch)
- Silicon interposer is mounted on a 55mm x 55mm laminate substrate with 130 $\mu$ m pitch C4 bumps



## Xilinx VIRTEX UltraScale+™

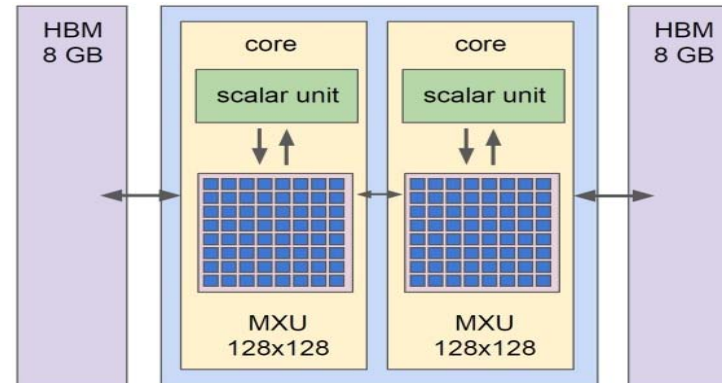
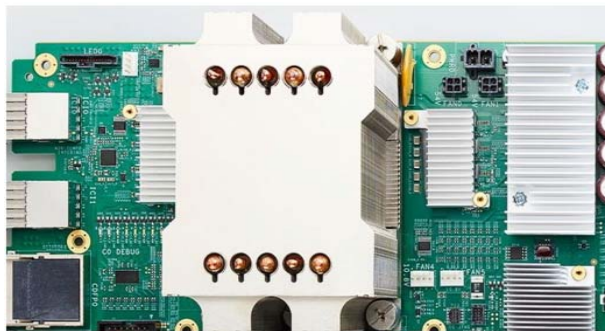
- **VIRTEX UltraScale+™ silicon interposer with TSVs**
  - Interposer as large as 30 mm x 36 mm
  - Metal line stitching used for larger than reticle interposer products at <math><1\mu\text{m}</math> pitch
  - 3 Cu metal layers plus 1 Al layer
  - Dual damascene process used to form vias and diameters
  - $\sim 0.4\mu\text{m}$  lines and spaces
- **Approximately 660,000 interconnects in the module**



Source: Xilinx.

## Google Tensor Processing Unit v2 with Interposer and HBM

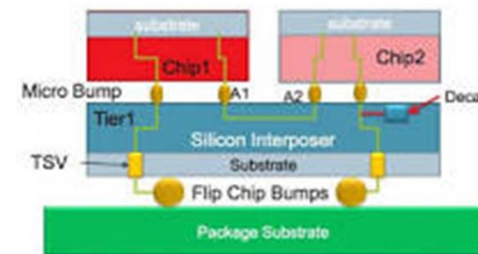
- **Google-designed device for neural net training and inference**
  - 16 GB of HBM
  - 600 GB/s memory bandwidth
- **ASIC + HBM on Si interposer using TSMC's CoWoS**



- **Version 3, introduced in May 2018, doubles the HBM**

## Drivers for Silicon Interposers



- **Demand for higher performance, lower latency in computing solutions**
  - Fast random-cycles and low latency/power memory access are required
- **Si interposers provide a high-density routing connection between logic and memory**
  - Applications such as networking systems, big data processing, cloud computing, and machine learning (also called artificial intelligence) require high-density routing
  - Silicon interposers provide fine features for communication between chips (< 1 $\mu$ m L/S)



### Intel's Silicon Bridge

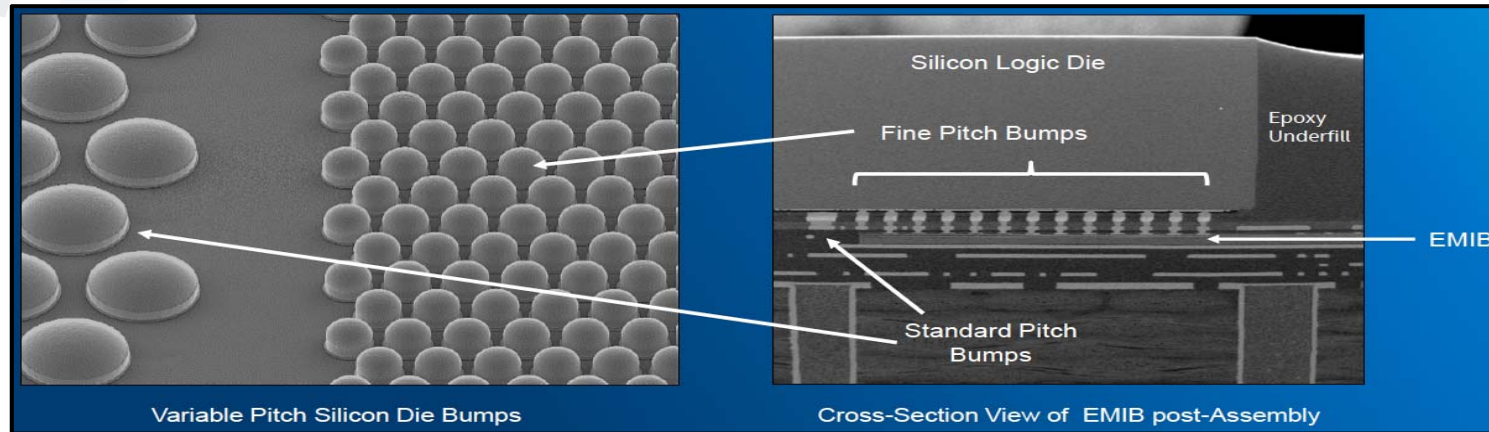
Source: Intel.

- **Embedded Multi-die Interconnect Bridge (EMIB)** A small silicon bridge chip is embedded into the package (no TSVs)
  - Package substrate provided by substrate supplier (does Si bridge embedding)
- **Considered less expensive because only small area for high-density silicon and no TSVs**
- **EMIB allows the die I/O or bumps to be placed as close as possible to the edge of the die because fewer I/O or bumps are required**
  - Micro bumps on chips, communication between chips through interposer
- **Good electrical performance is reported due to the short interconnects**

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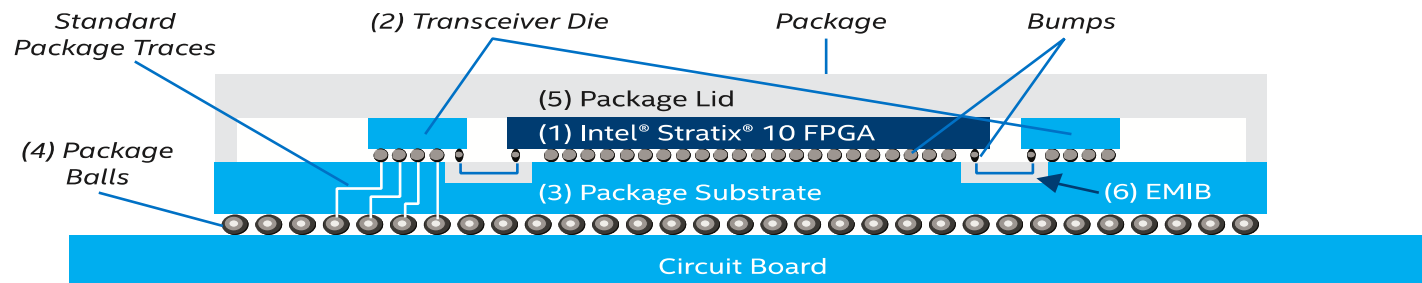
## EMIB Uses Micro Bumps and Standard Flip Chip Bumps



Source: Intel.

- **Custom I/O circuits fabricated on die and connect to neighbor die through substrate and silicon bridge**
  - Silicon die with 55 $\mu$ m pitch bumps to connect to silicon bridge
  - Bump pitch of 130 $\mu$ m on chip area outside the silicon bridge
- **Assembly done by Intel (Known Good Substrate and Known Good Die)**
- **Challenge of how to maintain planarity during assembly**
- **Requires thermo-compression bonder and epoxy underfill**

## Heterogeneous Integration Using EMIB Technology

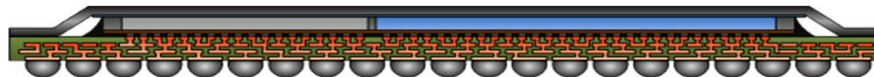


Source: Intel.

- **Stratix 10MX FPGA product with integration of HBM2 uses EMIB**
- **Stratix FPGA on 14nm FinFET silicon node**
- **Intel purchased Altera in 2015**

## Growth in FO-WLP on Substrate

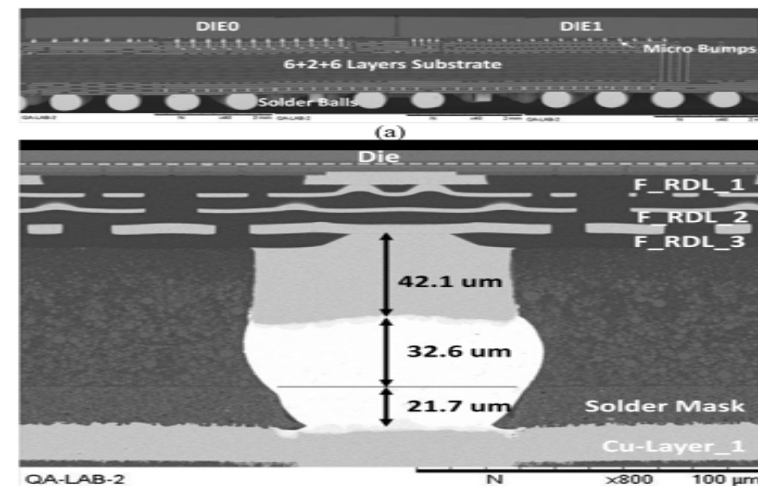
- **ASE's Fan-Out Chip on Substrate (FOCoS)**
  - RDL with 2 $\mu$ m/2.5 L/S
  - Up to 3 RDLs plus UBM
  - High I/O (>1,000)
  - Production for Hi-Silicon since 2016, new customers expected
- **TSMC Integrated Fan-Out WLP on Substrate (InFO\_oS)**
  - RDL with 2 $\mu$ m L/S
  - Up to 3 RDLs plus UBM
  - In production on MediaTek Switch
- **Amkor's Silicon Wafer Integrated Fan-out Technology (SWIFT®)**
  - RDL with 2/2 $\mu$ m L/S
  - Up to 3 RDLs plus UBM
  - Potential customers in 2019



Source: ASE.

## TSMC's InFO\_oS for Switch

- **MediaTek network switch fabricated using TSMC's InFOoS process for a switch**
- **Attached to a 55 mm x 55mm organic interposer**
  - Organic substrate
  - 44µm pitch Cu pillar bumps
- **Two homogeneous die integrated onto a wafer level carrier with fine feature 3-layer RDL**
- **Excellent performance**
  - Verified use of high-speed SERDES with 25Gbit/second data rate
  - Excellent signal and power integrity were reported



Source: MediaTek.

## Shinko Electric's i-THOP®

- **Shinko Electric's integrated Thin film High density Organic Package (i-THOP®)**

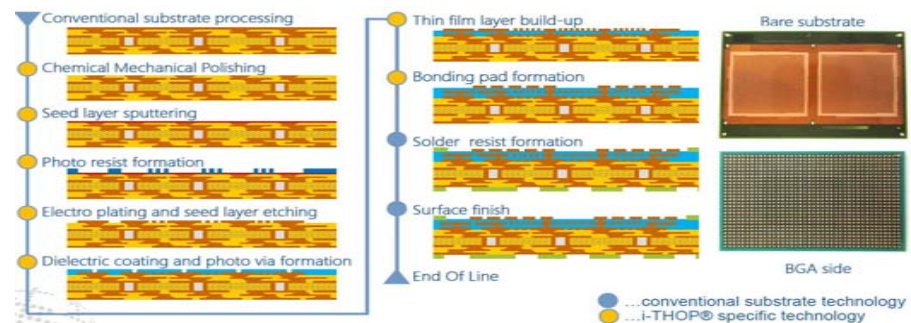
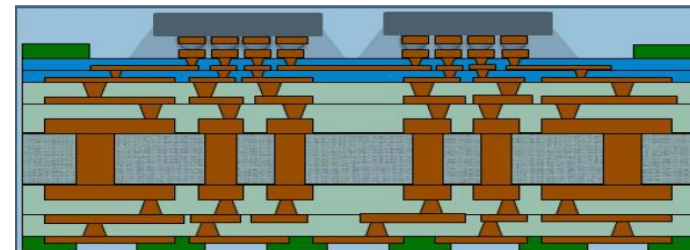
- Collaboration between Shinko Electric, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, and Amkor

- **Potential applications**

- Server/Networking with large die
- Logic/logic or logic/memory integration
- Where substrates  $\geq 55\text{mm} \times 55\text{mm}$  required

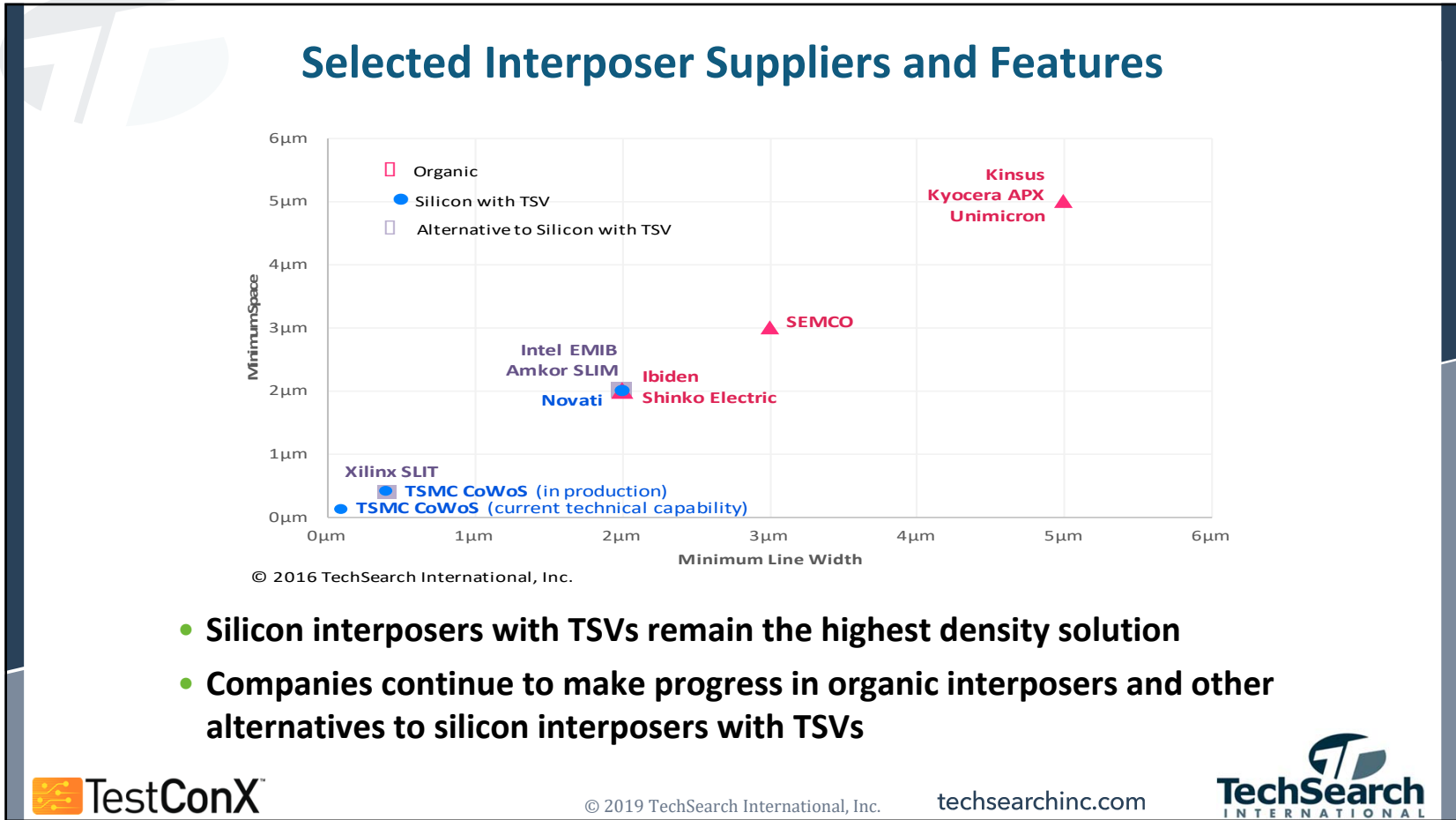
- **Interposers developed**

- Fine line routing layers, minimum  $2\mu\text{m}$  (L/S)
- Suitable for HBM integration
- Higher routing capability compared to conventional substrates
- Cost advantages expected compared to silicon interposer



Source: GlobalFoundries and Shinko Electric.



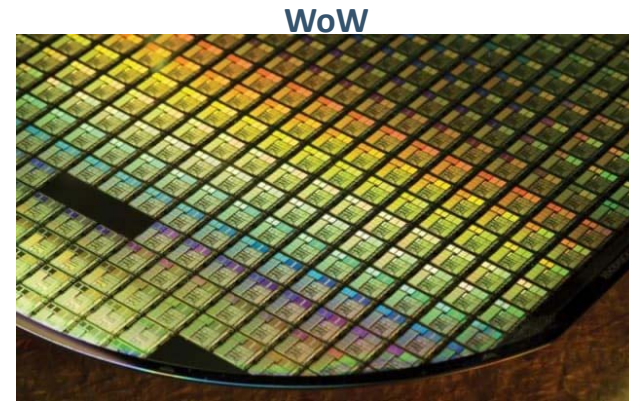


## Test Challenges for Heterogeneous Integration

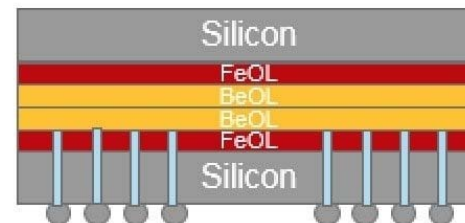
- **Known Good Die (KGD) required**
- **Known Good Substrate needed**
- **Know Good Interconnect (assumed)**
- **Need more comprehensive test content that can be run at wafer-level**
- **Need new methods to probe fine pitch bumps or test coverage without touching  $\mu$ bumps**

## What's Next? 3D Integration

- **3D integration of image sensors, memory and logic**
  - In production today
- **3D memory stacking**
  - In production today
- **Intel's Foveros**
- **TSMC's CoW, WoW, and SoIC**
  - System on Integrated Chip (SoIC) 3D stack using CoW process to handle  $<10\mu\text{m}$  bond pitch between chips
  - Two-die stack face-to-face (F2F) and a three die stack
  - Use of hybrid bonding
- **New forms of 3D stacking (die-to-die interconnects) are coming**



Source: TSMC.



## Test Issues for 3D IC with TSV

- **Want to minimize total cost of test and test-escape**

- Today: “Stack and Pray” = accumulated yield loss

1 chip	2 chips	3 chips	4 chips
90%	81%	73%	64%

- Today 3D IC memory stacks tested in packages
- 100% Test before assembly and after each assembly event  
= high test cost
- **Do we test through the TSV/micro bump interface or around it?**
  - Testing a 10,000 micro bump array is difficult and potentially very expensive
  - Need to test connections
  - Need BIST, redundancy, self-repair

Source: Adapted from P. Franzon

## Conclusions

- **Despite lower growth rates, mobile phones still drive volume**
  - WLP and FO-WLP
  - System-in-Package
- **5G is coming**
  - Infrastructure roll out started
  - RF modules require good test solution
- **Increased use of social media and IoT driving datacenter demand**
  - Growth for AI accelerators
  - AI accelerators demand drives use of silicon interposer and HBM
  - Si interposer proven technology, but alternatives emerging
  - Heterogeneous integration key to “economic limits of scaling”
  - Good test strategy critical
- **Challenges**
  - Need more attention to design for test and test methods
  - Yield is key, metrology important



# Thank you!

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