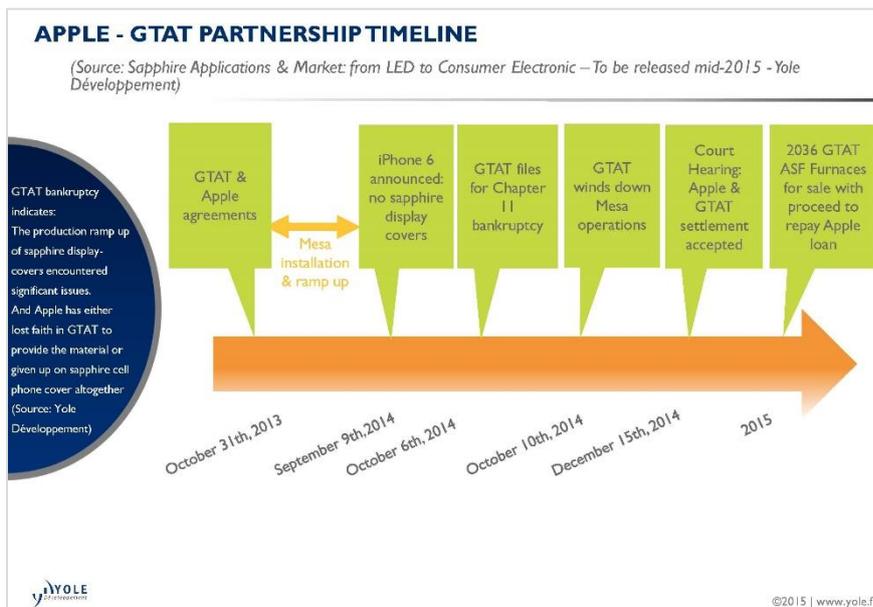


Sapphire industry: what we could expect after Apple's withdrawal last September...

1st International Forum on Sapphire Market & Technologies
On Sept. 3rd, Shenzhen, China

LYON, France – February 5, 2015 – “After a 2014 year full of hopes, the sapphire industry is entering 2015 with a lots of uncertainties,” analyzes **Dr Eric Virey, Senior, Technology & Market Analyst, Yole Développement (Yole)**. “Following a long period of depressed pricings and stagnating revenue, 2014 started with a welcome price recovery that lifted up the spirit of many industry players. But most of all, it was the prospect of a new killer application that had given reasons for optimism”, he adds.



The announcement by GTAT and Apple in late 2013 of a more than \$1 billion combined investment to set up the largest sapphire crystal growth facility in the world had raised hopes that adoption of sapphire in smartphones would rapidly reach a massive scale, with Apple setting up the pace and forcing its competitor to follow suit. Various second tier

cell phone OEM upped their efforts in sapphire-related developments and tried to beat Apple by announcing or introducing smartphone models with sapphire display covers ahead of the highly anticipated iPhone 6 announcement. This prompted various sapphire manufacturers in China to announce plans for significant capacity increases to serve this new market.

But the news that the iPhone 6 would not use a sapphire display cover, shortly followed by GTAT bankruptcy sent shockwaves in the industry and raised many questions:

- Is Apple still interested in sapphire and will the display cover glass opportunity ever materialize in a large scale?

- Is the technology ready?
- What will happen to the more than 2000 high capacity furnaces installed by GTAT and Apple?
- Are other cell phone OEM still considering sapphire?
- Can traditional applications such as LED or watch windows sustain more than 100 manufacturers?
- Could other applications emerge soon? If not how will consolidation affect the industry?
- Will China eventually dominate the sapphire industry?

The one-day [International Forum on Sapphire Market & Technologies \(September 3th, 2015 – Shenzhen, China\)](#) organized by Yole and its partner, [CIOE](#) will provide attendees a unique opportunity to address those questions and many more. Save the date right now and [discover the sessions](#).

Yole analysts have been tracking the sapphire market for more than a decade. Their analysis is presented in the yearly technology & market analysis: [Sapphire Applications & Market: from LED to Consumer Electronic](#) and [Sapphire Applications, Touch screens, displays, semiconductor, defense and consumer](#).

“The last 6 month events are shaking the sapphire industry”, comments Eric Virey from Yole. He adds: *“Today, several points remain under questions: is the display cover application dead on arrival? What is Apple’s strategy regarding sapphire? Can the market absorb the more than 2000 high capacity GTAT furnaces now for sale ...”*.

Under this context, Yole, the “More Than Moore” market research, technology and strategy consulting company, proposes to exchange and debate during the **1st International Forum on Sapphire Market & Technologies, on September 3rd, 2015**. This Forum is hosted by [CIOE](#). It will take place in Shenzhen, alongside the [17th China International Optoelectronic Expo 2015](#).

Both partners have set up a high added-value program including sessions on: sapphire market, technologies and supply chain – established and emerging sapphire applications - crystal growth - manufacturing technologies... The forum will wrap up with a round table with leading industry players and experts to discuss the future of sapphire technologies and markets.

“This 1st International Forum on Sapphire Market & Technologies is a must for all sapphire industry managers as well as for sapphire users in order to network and learn about all the latest industry trends”, comments Eric Virey.

The Yole & CIOE sapphire forum will bring together a world class panel of experts. It will allow participants to get valuable insights into the

status and future of the sapphire industry. Moreover, the Forum will provide unprecedented opportunities for meetings with industry leaders.

Make sure you will attend the Sapphire Market & Technologies Forum and save the date!

More information on registration and sponsorship opportunities available soon!



About [Sapphire Applications & Market: from LED to Consumer Electronic](#) report
Apple saved the sapphire industry in 2013 and could transform it in 2014. Will the revolution happen?

Publication date: August 2014- Detailed description: [Here](#)



About [Sapphire Applications, Touch screens, displays, semiconductor, defense and consumer.](#) report

Non substrate applications account for 25% of the US\$1 billion sapphire industry. But emerging mobile phone applications could bring this total to more than \$3 billion by 2018.

Publication date: June 2013- Detailed description: [Here](#)

To discover the 2015 collection of publications, go to i-micronews.com, [Compound Semi. reports section](#).

For further information about our reports, please contact David Jourdan (jourdan@yole.fr).

About 17th China International Optoelectronic Expo 2015

With more than 3,000 exhibitors and 85,000 expected visitors, the CIOE is the largest optoelectronic exhibition. As a part of it, LED Tech China features all major actors in the sapphire and LED supply chains, from raw material and equipment providers to crystal growth, wafering and LED companies. More information about this event: [Here](#).

About Yole Développement – www.yole.fr / www.i-micronews.com

Founded in 1998, Yole Développement has grown to become a group of companies providing marketing, technology and strategy consulting, media in addition to corporate finance services. With a strong focus on emerging applications using silicon and/or micro manufacturing, Yole Développement group has expanded to include more than 50 collaborators worldwide covering MEMS, Compound Semiconductors, LED, Image Sensors, Optoelectronics, Microfluidics & Medical, Photovoltaics, Advanced Packaging, Manufacturing, Nanomaterials and Power Electronics. The group supports industrial companies, investors and R&D organizations worldwide to help them understand markets and follow technology trends to develop their business.

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