

The sapphire saga continues: could recent investments signal a new beginning?

- **“How to drive sapphire into the next growth phase”**, a live webcast, scheduled for July 9, 2015. This online event is sponsored by TRUMPF and powered by Yole Développement. To register, visit the [Sapphire Live Webcast page](#).
- The **1st International Forum, Sapphire Market and Technologies** from August 31 to September 1, 2015. This event is organized by Yole Développement and China International Optoelectronic Expo (CIOE) and will take place in Shenzhen, China. To attend, visit the [Sapphire Forum page](#).

LYON, France – July 3rd, 2015 – After crystal growth equipment supplier GT Advanced Technologies (GTAT) and Apple announced a partnership in October 2013, sapphire cover glass adoption for the iPhone 6 appeared to be the next logical step. From autumn 2013, both companies started setting up the largest sapphire growth operation in the world. However, one year later, the [iPhone 6 was announced without sapphire cover glass](#). One month after that, [GTAT stunned the sapphire industry by filing for bankruptcy](#).

This year, at the beginning of June, a new chapter might have opened. Apple cover glass supplier [Lens Technology](#), a sapphire component supplier, announced its intention to invest \$620M in sapphire manufacturing. This announcement follows significant investments and capacity ramp from rival Biel. Do those investments and many more from Chinese sapphire companies signal new beginning for the sapphire industry?

[Yole Développement \(Yole\)](#), the “More than Moore” market research and strategy consulting company, is organizing two events this summer to explore that question. The events will build on Yole’s market positioning and expertise in the compound semiconductor and LED area, especially at the sapphire level. Using their comprehensive knowledge of the sapphire industry, Yole’s analysts have produced an impressive program, including a live webcast and a forum. Put these events in your calendar right now, and register on [i-micronews.com](#), in the [Events section](#)!

In collaboration with the equipment manufacturer, TRUMPF, Yole is first organizing a [Sapphire Live Webcast](#) on July 9. This online event,

entitled ***“How to drive sapphire into the next growth phase”*** will put recent industrial news into context, and help attendees place their bets for the future. During this live session, **Dr Eric Virey, Senior, Market and Technology Analyst at Yole** will detail his vision of the sapphire market, including technology trends and market evolution. From the technology side, **Royce Lee, Industry Manager for consumer electronics and micromachining at TRUMPF** will present laser-based solutions for the machining and cutting of sapphire and other transparent materials.

“We all know about the huge investments that have been made since 2013 in the sapphire industry,” says Virey. *“Apple and GTAT in 2013 and 2014, along; with Biel and Lens Technology, Apple’s leading display cover and sapphire component suppliers which are both investing again. Many more companies such as Aurora or Saifei are investing as well. Can we expect a new start for sapphire? At Yole, we have been following the industry for a long time. Thanks to our daily discussions with the leaders and key players, we have a deep understanding of the market’s evolution and technical challenges. Recent news should have a direct impact on the supply chain and create business opportunities, for example in display covers. Our online webcast will provide an overview of the status of the industry and the significance of the recent investments”* To attend this webcast, register right now: click on [Sapphire Live Webcast](#) or go to i-micronews.com, [Events section](#).

The second important event is the [1st International Forum, Sapphire Market and Technologies](#). This conference will take place from August 31 to September 1 in Shenzhen, China, alongside the [17th China International Optoelectronic Expo 2015](#), which has collaborated in the sapphire forum’s organization. The [two-day program](#) will gather leaders of the sapphire industry such as Monocrystal, Huawei, GTAT, Silian, Aurora Sapphire, DK-Aztec, Saint-Gobain, Namiki, Meyer Burger and many more.

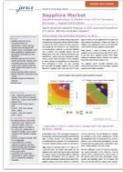
Questions abound regarding the sapphire industry’s status. For example, Yole’s analysts highlight the large number of companies that seem to bank their future on smartphone makers adopting sapphire cover glass. How will these companies survive? Is this application even viable? Meanwhile, GTAT still has more than two thousand furnaces available. How will the market manage this capacity?

For the first time, Yole and CIOE will bring together a world class panel of experts for a two-day dedicated sapphire conference. *“The sapphire forum will provide participants with valuable insights into the*

industry's status and future", says Eric Virey. "When organizing this program, we had strong positive feedback and many more proposals for papers than we had speaking slots, which was a nice surprise. Selecting speakers was not an easy task, and even after deciding to extend the event over 2 days, we couldn't accommodate all the requests. We hope attendees will enjoy this program, which will provide multiple point of views regarding the prospects for the sapphire industry, bringing together large and mature players such as Huawei and Monocrystal as well as start-ups and smaller companies with disruptive technologies."

To discover the program in detail, go to the i-micronews [Events section](#). Yole and CIOE encourage you to sign up for the [Sapphire Forum](#) now, as the number of participants is limited.

For more information about the forum, the venue in China, and any other matters, contact [Clotilde Fabre](#).



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 players in the sapphire and LED supply chains, from raw material and equipment providers to crystal growth, wafering and LED companies. Get more information about this event [here](#).

About Trumpf

TRUMPF is a world leader in industrial lasers and laser system technology. TRUMPF laser technology encompasses CO2 lasers, solid-state lasers, marking lasers, and laser systems. It is difficult to find a manufacturing application that is not suitable for laser technology. Whether cutting, welding, marking, or forming – our wide spectrum of lasers and laser systems offers you a punctual/precisely accurate solution.

The TRUMPF laser technology/electronics business division achieved sales of €841 million in fiscal year 2013/14 with 2,588 employees.

The customers of our laser technology business field mainly come from the automotive industry and its suppliers, electronics and precision engineering, mechanical engineering, tool and mold making as well as medical technology. More info on www.trumpf-laser.com

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.

CONSULTING

- Market data & research, marketing analysis
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- Reverse engineering & costing services
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- Patent analysis

MEDIA & EVENTS

- i-Micronews.com, online disruptive technologies website

REPORTS

- Collection of technology & market reports
- Manufacturing cost simulation tools
- Component reverse engineering & costing analysis
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FINANCIAL SERVICES

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- @Micronews, weekly e-newsletter
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