

Sapphire players congregate at critical moment for industry

Sapphire Applications & Market 2015: From LED to Consumer
Electronic report from Yole Développement – July 2015



LYON, France – September 25, 2015: *Tremendous success for the first international conference on sapphire and its applications! The 1st International Forum, Sapphire Market and Technologies, organized by the “More than Moore” market research and strategy consulting company [Yole Développement \(Yole\)](#) and hosted by the [China International Optoelectronic Expo \(CIOE\)](#), took place from August 31 to September 1, 2015 in Shenzhen, China and gathered close to 230 participants!*

For the first time in its more than 100 year history, the sapphire community came together as an industry with its own event and place to discuss markets, applications, technologies, competitive landscape and long term prospects. The forum featured 20 international speakers from leading companies across the entire value chain.

Attendance exceeded all expectations with close to 230 participants. The audience included multiple CEOs and high level executives representing the entire sapphire ecosystem, including investors and sapphire component users such as LED makers and consumer electronic companies.

The event came at a critical time. *“Since the late 1990s, the growth of the sapphire industry has resulted from adoption of LEDs in small and large displays,”* says **Eric Virey, Senior Analyst and author of the recent [Sapphire Applications & Market 2015: from LED to Consumer Electronics market report](#)** (August 2015, Yole Développement). *“As of 2015, LEDs still represent close to 80% of sapphire consumption volume. Massive adoption in general lighting is finally happening, but this will be the last LED-driven growth cycle for the industry. And because of excessive capacity investment in the 2009-2011 period, volume growth will be offset by strong price pressure and revenue will plateau at around US\$700 million per year for LED substrates. It is therefore critical that the industry comes together to enable new applications such as cell phone display covers. This will require significant transformations in the supply chain, new processes, new capabilities and continuous cost improvement”.*

The forum covered all key aspects of the value chain in a stimulating format which, according to participants, provided a *“perfect balance between market and technical content”*. The speakers were pleased with the opportunity to share and exchange and all *“did a great job at delivering exciting, informative, and sometime challenging or provocative presentations”*. Attendees also enjoyed the multiple networking opportunities offered by the coffee and lunch breaks as well as the welcome cocktail party provided by the event sponsors Trumps and Zonewe. *“I met essentially all my customers as well as new business prospects all in one place and 24 hours,”* says an attendee.
[...]

Overall, this 1st International Forum on Sapphire Market and Technologies demonstrated that despite being more than a century old, the industry is still evolving at a fast pace. Crystals of sizes that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago are now produced routinely. 300kg boules have been demonstrated on commercial equipment and one participant is confident that it will reach 1000 kg by the end of the decade. Relentless innovation in slicing such as Meyer Burger’s wire management system, and also in lapping, grinding and polishing deliver constant performance improvements and cost reductions. *“All contribute to speeding up adoption and reducing cost of ownership in existing applications as well as enabling exciting new applications that could trigger another industry growth cycle,”* comments Virey.

The higher than expected attendance at this event reflects the eagerness of the industry to make the necessary transformation toward the next growth phase and the need for guidance and stimulating exchanges that such an event can provide. *“We had to change the location of the event three times in order to accommodate an ever-growing number of registrations,”* says **Clotilde Fabre, Communication and Media Project Manager at Yole Développement**. *“In the end, our hosts at the CIOE had to build a special room from scratch on the day before the event started! All this wouldn’t have been possible without their dedication and tireless efforts.”*

Feedback has been extremely positive and participants indicated that they are eager to attend next year. *“Put it in your calendar, the second edition should be held in Shenzhen again in conjunction with CIOE 2016,”* announced **Pars Mukish, Business Unit Manager, LED, OLED and Sapphire at Yole Développement**.

To read the full article, go to i-micronews.com, LED news section or [click here](#).



About [Sapphire Applications & Market: From LED to Consumer Electronic](#) report:

Rates: Euros 5,990.00 (Full report - Multi user license). For special offers and the price in dollars, please contact [David Jourdan](#).

After a false start in 2014, will Apple finally use sapphire display covers in 2016?

- Author:

Eric Virey holds a Ph-D in Optoelectronics from the national Polytechnic Institute of Grenoble. In the last 12 years, he's held various R&D, engineering, manufacturing and marketing positions with Saint-Gobain. Most recently, he was Market Manager at Saint-Gobain Crystals, in charge of Sapphire and Optoelectronic products.

- Companies cited in the report:

Aceplux Optotech, Aimcore, AND Corporation, Apple, Astra Crystal, Aucksun, Aurora Sapphire, Aurotek, Baltic Crystal, Bengbu North Technology, Biel Roshow, Changelight, Corning, Cree, Crystal, Applied Technology, Crystal Optech, Crystaland, Crystalwise, C-Sun, Dakele, DARXOrdos, Desay, DK Aztec, EGCM, EGing, Electech (ETI), Epilight, Epistar, Epitop, Ever Lumin Incorporation, Focus, Lighting, Formosa epitaxy, Foxconn, Fujian Crystal Technology, Fujian Sanan, GAPSS, Gionee, GTAT, Guangdong Saifei Sapphire Technology, Hansol Technics, HQC, HTC, HTOT, Hualei LED, Huawei, Huijing Optoelectronic, HC Semitek, Hyperion Geocrystal, Iljin Display, Inpsut Huaguang, JingCheng, JM Crystal, Jurapol, Kama Crystal, Kingland, Kingsun, KQT, Kyocera, Lattice Power, Lens Tech, Lextar, LG Innotek, LG Siltron, LGS, Lovme, Lucemitek, Meizu, Meyer Burger, Monocrystal, Namiki, Nanjing, J-Crystal Photoelectric (NJ), Nantong Tongfan, Nationstar, Nichia, OCI, OCOC, Oppo, Osram-OS, Peregrine Semiconductor, Lumileds, Phecda, Plessey...

About Yole Développement

Founded in 1998, [Yole Développement](#) has grown to become a group of companies providing marketing, technology and strategy consulting, media and corporate finance services. With a strong focus on emerging applications using silicon and/or micro manufacturing, the 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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