

DecaWave nears chip completion

By Dick O'Brien

Dublin chip development firm DecaWave has completed the final development phase of its new chip, and samples of it will be delivered to customers by November.

DecaWave said that it had completed "tape-out", the last phase of the chip design cycle of its DW1000 chip, which will be the first product from its ScenSor chip family.

ScenSor chips are designed to combine real-time location reporting with wireless sensor capabilities. The DW1000 will be capable of locating objects indoors to a precision of 10cm and to communicate at data rates up to 6.8Mbps, from a range of 450 metres with line of sight and 45 metres without one.

The chip is designed for low power consumption, using seven times less power than narrow-band 802.15.4 transceivers.

"There is already very strong advance customer demand for this silicon, so samples will be made available to our customers as soon as possible so that they can continue their development work," said DecaWave chief executive Ciaran Connell.

Despite the chip still being relatively early in its development cycle, DecaWave has already signed some lucrative deals for it. In late 2009, the company signed a deal with LG Innotek, a division of the Korean electronics manufacturer, that will see LG develop a module based on DecaWave's chip, which will be used for



Ciaran Connell of DecaWave

real-time location systems and wireless sensor networks.

LG placed an advanced order for 125,000 of the chips. DecaWave said the deal would lead to revenues of more than €100 million a year within five years.

DecaWave, which is based in Dublin and has offices in San Jose, Toulouse and South Korea, last year raised €2 million in new funding from Kernel Capital and Dermot Desmond's equity firm, International Investment & Underwriting.