

ElectronicsWeekly

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Irish chip start-up impresses Taoiseach

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WIRELESS

IC tracks indoors

Dublin-based wireless location chip firm DecaWave has introduced its first ScenSor wireless device at an event hosted by Irish prime minister Enda Kenny.

The range-finding IC works by transmitting wireless signals to readers that use them to locate the tagged object to within 10cm.

The device is based on the IEEE802.15.4a standard, which is an extension of the 802.15.4 ZigBee low-power wireless comms standard.

The IC supports data rates up to 27Mbit/s in a range up to 50 metres and locating accuracy of about ± 10 cm.

It is being proposed as an alternative to the RFID and Wi-Fi technology currently used for indoor tracking, where satellite-based GPS signals are not available.

"Until now, 10cm location communications across close distances was not possible and current systems with metre-level accuracy have limited reliability," said Ciaran Connell, chief executive at DecaWave. "More than 1,800 firms and institutes have expressed an interest in implementing our technology, for applications such as factory and building automation, agriculture, healthcare, ePOS and retail, and warehousing," he said.

Thales Communications & Security (TCS) develops applications for indoor location in emergency situations. "These deal with different environment types and especially

those in severe non line-of-sight conditions, for which multipath fading is a primary concern," said Serge Hethuin, head of secured wireless products at TCS. "The results achieved with the DecaWave IC are particularly good," he said.

 **DecaWave**
www.decawave.com



Taoiseach Enda Kenny is pictured looking at the DW1000 chip with DecaWave chief technology officer Michael McLaughlin

PHOTOGRAPH: IAIN WHITE

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MARKETS

September chip sales strong

European semiconductor sales were up 6.4% in September compared with the same month last year. Sales were also 1.7% up on the previous month, according to market analysts WSTS.

The main drivers were microprocessors, up 3.3% and microcontrollers, up 1.7% compared to August. Memory was up 5.4% and sensors/actuators were up 1.2% on the month.

Overall, European semiconductor sales in September amounted to \$2.964bn.