

Press Release

Infineon to establish global center of competence for new semiconductor technology in Austria

35 million euro investment in Villach for research, development and manufacturing of semiconductors based on silicon carbide technology (SiC)

Villach, 23 August 2017 – Infineon Technologies, the global market leader in power semiconductors, is stepping up activities in order to offer reliable and increasingly efficient and powerful products made from new semiconductor materials. Demand from the areas of industrial electronics, e-mobility and renewable energy production is increasing, and with this in mind, the company is massively expanding its silicon carbide based product portfolio. Silicon carbide is a new semiconductor material of high relevance for energy-saving chips.

This strategic initiative involves a € 35 million investment in the silicon carbide development and production activities of the semiconductor group's Austrian affiliate in Villach to go ahead this year. The investment package includes further development of semiconductor process technologies, state-of-the-art production facilities and the expansion of the existing manufacturing infrastructure. In Villach alone, 30 additional highly qualified jobs in research, technological development and product management are being created.

"We are convinced that the silicon carbide MOSFET technology is at a turning point and that growth rates will be sky-rocketing in the near to medium future", says Peter Wawer, Division President Industrial Power Control from Infineon. "We intend to claim global leadership in this area and this is why we are launching an investment program to pro-actively expand our portfolio of silicon carbide products in the Industrial Power Control, Automotive and the Power Management & Multimarket divisions of Infineon. Villach as the center of competence for development and production of silicon carbide semiconductors is playing a key role in all of this."

"Infineon in Villach is an important development and innovation facility within the Group and has been working with new semiconductor technologies, such as silicon carbide or gallium nitride for a long period of time", says Sabine Herlitschka, CEO of Infineon Technologies Austria AG. "Our many years of research, development and manufacturing expertise put us in a prime position to establish this focus program of our Group in Austria. Considering the growing demand for silicon carbide solutions in the global power semiconductor market, this added competence is of significant importance for Villach."

Distinct market potential

Infineon has introduced a series of new silicon carbide products over the past few months – all developed and produced in Villach, including the 1,200 V CoolSic-MOSFET family. Starting from its market-leading expertise and thorough system knowledge of power semiconductors, the company will develop a comprehensive range of silicon carbide solutions tailored to various application areas. Demand is rising for charging stations for e-vehicles with distinctly shorter charging times, for example, or for solar energy plant inverters and also in the field of uninterrupted power supply. These are market fields where huge growth potential is expected to be leveraged in the near future.

Silicon carbide reduces system costs

Even though power semiconductors on the basis of traditional silicon technology will still be dominating the market in the coming years, the use of silicon carbide opens up the gate to the next major progress in development. Energy-saving chips on the basis of silicon carbide technology are suited to achieve marked system benefits: a reduction in energy losses by up to 80% in current conversion means that sizes and system costs can also be reduced while the power is maintained. Thus these chips provide the basis for the most efficient, smaller and lighter system solutions for energy conversion or e-mobility.

About Infineon Austria

Infineon Technologies AG is a group company of Infineon Technologies AG, a leading global supplier of semiconductor solutions that make life easier, safer and greener. Microelectronics from Infineon reduce the energy consumption of consumer electronics, household appliances and industrial plants alike. Microelectronic components contribute to convenience, safety and sustainability of vehicles and enable safe transactions in a networked world.

Infineon Austria is the only site besides Germany where R & D expertise, production know-how and global business responsibility are pooled. The company headquarters are in Villach; subsidiaries are located in Graz, Klagenfurt, Linz and Vienna. In the 2016 fiscal year (ending September 30), the company reported sales of Euro 1.8 billion with more than 3,600 employees (of which 1,400 in R&D) from some 60 nations. Research expenditure of € 400+ million make Infineon Austria one of the strongest research companies in Austria.

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