



Motorola Says New Nanotube Technology Will Shrink Flat-Panel Display Costs

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Motorola is already negotiating with potential manufacturers for its carbon nanotube technology (CNT), unveiled Monday, that it believes can revolutionize the flat-panel display industry.

The company said the new technology, developed in its Motorola Labs, can create large displays that offer better quality, longer lifetime, and lower costs than competing display technologies. Motorola is demonstrating a 5-inch color video display prototype of the CNT technology that is less than 1-inch thick.

"Right now, we're looking for strategic partners," said a Motorola spokeswoman, Jennifer Weyrouch. "We're currently in licensing negotiations with manufacturers in Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, and Europe."

Motorola's CNT technology involves a growth process whereby electron emission performance exceeds the widely used application of CNT to cathode via organic paste, according to the company. "Our way of growing CNTs directly on the substrate was a breakthrough," said Weyrauch.

Motorola said its experience with the new technology dates back 15 years, noting that it has 160 patents in CNT and flat-panel display technology. "We have developed a technology that could enable the next generation of large-size flat-panel displays to deliver an extraordinary visual experience at a fraction of current prices," said Jim O'Connor, vice president, Motorola technology incubation and commercialization, in a statement.

"CNT direct growth on glass appears to have advantages over CNT paste/printing approaches and has potential for larger and more sophisticated displays," said Kimberly Allen, director of display technology and strategy for iSuppli, in a statement. Another analyst, at DisplaySearch, estimated that the manufactured cost for a 40-inch panel based on the technology could be under \$400.

Noting that further details of the new CNT technology will be presented later this month at the annual meeting of the Society for Information Display International Symposium in Boston, Motorola released additional details of the 5-inch prototype. The video section presents full color 1280 x 720, 16:9, 42-inch HDTV with high quality brightness. The display panel itself has a thickness of 3.3 millimeters (about 1/8th of an inch thick) and features inexpensive display drive electronics roughly in the price range of LCD, but much less expensive than plasma display technology.

The company said its CNT technology is targeted to have fast response times, wide viewing angles, and wide operation temperatures " and is planned to meet or exceed the display characteristics found in CRTs.

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