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The Vertical Portal for China Business Intelligence

STUDY GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

This report provides the industry executives with strategically significant competitor information, analysis, insight and projection on the competitive pattern and key companies in the industry, crucial to the development and implementation of effective business, marketing and R&D programs.

REPORT OBJECTIVES

- To establish a comprehensive, factual, annually updated and costeffective information base on market size, competition patterns, market segments, goals and strategies of the leading players in the market, reviews and forecasts.
- ◆ To assist potential market entrants in evaluating prospective acquisition and joint venture candidates.
- To complement the organizations' internal competitor information gathering efforts with strategic analysis, data interpretation and insight.
- To suggest for concerned investors in line with the current development of this industry as well as the development tendency.
- To help company to succeed in a competitive market, and

METHODOLOGY

Both primary and secondary research methodologies were used in preparing this study. Initially, a comprehensive and exhaustive search of the literature on this industry was conducted. These sources included related books and journals, trade literature, marketing literature, other product/promotional literature, annual reports, security analyst reports, and other publications. Subsequently, telephone interviews or email correspondence was conducted with marketing executives etc. Other sources included related magazines, academics, and consulting companies.

INFORMATION SOURCES

The primary information sources include NBS(National Bureau of Statistics of China), Wind, and Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the P.R. China etc.

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Abstract

FPCB was originally applied in HDD and ODD, witnessing considerably robust development; and the FPCB market was dominated by Japanese manufacturers before 2003. However, the popularity of camera phone in 2003 breathed new life into FPCB sector for manufactures in Chinese mainland, Taiwan and South Korea, ending the history of Japan as a dominant player in the market.

In 2005-2006, FPCB market embraced its first boom; in 2007, a cut-throat bargain competition took the stage; in 2007-2009, the average price of FPCB saw downward mobility for consecutive three years, a fall of more than 50% accumulatively. Subsequently, nearly one hundred small firms were forced to shut down, resulting in FPCB industry on a healthy growth track.

In addition, the FPCB downstream market was expanding to mobile phone, laptop computer, LED Light Bar sectors. In 2010, the FPCB industry turned a new leaf, with the market value hitting USD8191 million, up 21% over 2009.

For mobile phone, the functional modules are largely connected by FPCB. An additional FPCB is needed for one new functional module. Especially for the smart phone featuring complex internal structure and variety of functions, it demands massive FPCB. In 2011, touch screen became the standard configuration of a smart phone, sending the unit price of FPCB higher due to the more demanding technologies of FPCB required.

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People's pursuit for ultra-thin electronics is the driving force for the growth of FPCB market. And the popularity of tablet PC constitutes another engine. In 2012, Intel launched its hit product, UltraBook, a move which is also expected to promote the FPCB market. In 2011, the FPCB market size surged by 17% to USD9.569 billion, with the targeted figure in 2012 hitting USD10.68 billion, up 12%. Technologically, 2L has replaced 3L and become the mainstream.

Japanese corporations have maintained the position as a leader in FPCB market and, have long been dominating HDD and ODD FPCB market for almost two decades. Japanese manufacturers boast steady quality, massive capacity as well as production bases all across the globe.

Apple is the largest FPCB purchaser worldwide, with procurement approaching USD2 billion in 2011. Its products, including iPod, iTouch, iPad, iPhone and laptop, all need large quantities of FPCB. In the world, 6 FPCB suppliers are approved by Apple, including Japan-based NIPPON MEKTRON, SUMITOMO ELECTRONICS, FUJIKURA, America-based M-FLEX, Taiwan-based FLEXIUM and South Korea-based INTERFLEX.

Suffering triple blow of 311 Earthquake, Thailand flooding and appreciation of yen, Japanese enterprises, especially NOK, outperformed its counterparts in other countries. Except NOK, Japanese corporations don't place FPCB as their core business. FUJIKURA once would reduce the scale of its FPCB business. But in 2011, the iPad fever injected more confidence into Fujikura.

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Among the South Korean manufactures, Samsung and LG are the leading players. For Samsung, Smartphone and tablet PC businesses have seen burgeoning growth, bringing huge profit to FPCB suppliers including Interflex which was approved by Apple. Additionally, Taiwan-based ZDT, affiliated to Honhai, developed so fast that has become one among the global top 10 PCB manufacturers after five years of development.

Moreover, there are Career, which relies on Mainland China's manufacturers and HTC, and Ichia, which is largely reliant on Nokia and HTC. Furthermore, MFS, a Singapore holding company with the production base located in Changsha, Hunan province, has VIP customer HGST which was took over by Western Digital Corp.

Revenue of Global Top FPCB Manufacturers, 2010-2012

Manufacturer	2010	2011	2012E
	(USD mln)	(USD mln)	(USD mln)
NOK	2,071	2,335	2,480
SEI	700	934	980
FUJIKURA	777	901	1,008
M-FLEX	803	831	960
ZDT	274	528	580
NITTODENKO	496	513	420
Interflex	362	460	577
CAREER	321	394	518
SI FLEX	306	345	360
SONY CHEMICAL	293	280	230
FLEXIUM	144	260	367
ICHIA	152	211	279
Sumitomo Bakelite	214	188	130
FLEXCOM	134	155	216
BHflex	96	133	181
MFS	137	125	80
PARLEX	69777	8582 70 :////	70,70
Newflex	60	54	50
DAECUCK GDS	78	121	165

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For the FPCB manufactures in Mainland China, they are characteristic of very small scale and laggard technologies and, hard to gain recognition from foreign leading manufacturers. However, benefiting from the huge mobile phone industry in China, Chinese FPCB companies have seen substantial growth, with representative ones including BYD, Three Golds, ZTE XINGYU FPC, KINWONG, JINGCHENGDA, NETRON SOFT-TECH, JIAZHIHONG and ZHUHAI TOPSUN.

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