

The Outlook for MEMS Industry Growth: Gartner's Perspective

MEMS (micro electromechanical systems) is relatively new to Gartner Group's vocabulary. Gartner has long experience tracking "non-optical sensors," of which accelerometers have been the most dominant and have promised the most certain growth. Ordinarily used to trigger airbags in the instants following an auto crash, the acceleration sensors are finding applications as golf and tennis swing simulators in gaming peripherals, and as rotational sensors (even footstep counters) in cell phones and GPS-based navigational aids.

Slide 1: After a difficult 2009, in which all industries experienced an economic downturn, the semiconductor industry is experiencing strong demand, and will exhibit close to 22% revenue growth in 2010, reaching \$276 billion. Memory, with a projected growth of 37.6%, will lead the recovery. Non-optical sensors will show a healthy 16.2% growth.

Slide 2: The automotive sector, which accounted for \$2.0 billion in sensor consumption in 2008, will account for the largest portion of the sensor market. The sector will grow at a 10% CAGR, reaching \$2.8 in 2014.

Slide 3: But communications applications — like handsets offering navigational aids, portrait-and-landscape detection, and location-based services — will give motion sensors a 20% CAGR. Games will also account for a 15% CAGR.

How this rapid growth will be implemented is the subject of this panel.

-Stephan Ohr, Research Director, Gartner