

Information Meeting 2017 Presentation Q&A

Q: What differentiators will Murata have and what kind of competition will the company face in the area of 5G technology?

A: We will need technology for filters such as dielectric filters. There is more than one key technology, meaning that we will need comprehensive RF technology. In addition, we expect that integrated modules containing antennas and filters will be required to use even high millimeter-wave bands for 5G. We will also focus on developing such modules.

Q: Three months have passed since the completion of the battery business transfer process. Now that the business is integrated into your organization, what advantages do you find in it and which areas need improvement?

A: The materials development technology is the first advantage to be mentioned. It allows us to meet customer requests ahead of the competition in the market for smartphone batteries, too. Another highlight is the use of an electrolyte made of safe gel, which we believe gives us a safety advantage. A setback is the lack of reserve in production capacity. We aim to develop a solid production capacity substantially in the coming year.

Q: Could you tell us about the NAONA virtual sensor platform? What is its concept?

A: At CEATEC, we presented the NAONA as one of our projects in IoT technology. Designed to visualize how crowded with people a given place is, the concept combines a directional microphone with wireless communication to make the atmosphere visible. We expect to establish a business of providing relevant data in the future.

Q: How is the development of all-solid-state battery technology going right now?

A: All-solid-state batteries are produced using a process similar to the one employed for MLCCs. The difference is that all-solid-state battery is not allowed to cause a single defect per layer. These batteries should be designed in relatively large sizes to provide sufficient battery capacity. But again, large size means they will cause defects more easily. This is why development engineers are working on determining how large they can be made safely.

Q: MLCC capacity is growing higher and higher. What are your prospects for downsizing in 2018?

A: As far as downsizing is concerned, we expect that sizes from 1005 to 0603 will become the mainstream for MLCCs used in consumer products and smartphones this year. In 2018F and after, we expect that the recent shortage of MLCCs worldwide will cause manufacturers to make a shift toward downsizing, resulting in more substantial growth for smaller products.

Q: Now that LTE has spread considerably, do you expect that SAW filters will continue to have increasing demand?

A: LTE is now going through a pause in growth, while CA will still likely achieve two-digit growth. The future introduction of new high-speed communication protocols will increase the number of components used per phone.

Q: How do you differentiate MetroCirc™ from comparable products from competitors?

A: The greatest advantage of MetroCirc™ is its high dielectric constant. The dielectric constant counts particularly in the bands of millimeter waves used for 5G communication, in particular. This is why we aim to focus on MetroCirc™ technology as a leading application.

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