

## SAR Insight & Consulting

*For immediate release – 01 September 2020*

### **System on a chip will drive hearable as a platform**

**Headphones will eventually become separate untethered devices, rather than conduits for other devices, thanks to the evolution of System on a Chip (SoC) integrated circuits, according to in-depth market analysis by SAR Insight & Consulting.**

One striking trend that is expected to emerge is the development of ‘hearable as a platform’, which will see devices with less dependence on mobile phones for operation.

As a result, increased functionality will lead to new applications for a range of sectors from entertainment to healthcare.

‘Headphone SoC—Intelligence at the Audio Edge’ from SAR Insight & Consulting takes an expert look at: how the SoC approach to headphone design will develop over the coming years; which headset vendors will open the markets; and which semi-conductor vendors will drive the technology.

“There are so many possibilities available thanks to the emerging SoC trend,” SAR director and the report’s author Joe Hoffman said. “We will see much more processing power encapsulated within the headphones than we do now. Services that require low latency will reside in the bud, such as noise cancellation and wake word identification, while the heavy processing will take place in a mobile phone or even the cloud.”

Joe explained that much of the headphone ecosystem is in place, thanks to consumers’ acceptance of true wireless stereo headsets, and their willingness to talk to their devices with digital assistants such as Siri and Hey Google gaining widespread notoriety.

“The rapid growth of TWS will drive both the headphone SoC market and innovation,” Joe said. “For example, the earbud is a perfect place to install the biosensors for health monitoring applications, with temperature and motion sensing in the ear canal, providing more intimate and accurate detection than on the wrist.

“Furthermore, by merging the voice interface with a machine learning neural network you form the basis of a new platform, and voice assistants like Apple’s Siri will make today’s science fiction into near-term reality.

“Additional public health benefits could benefit society as a whole, for example pandemics, where monitoring and tracking are essential.”

‘Headphone SoC—Intelligence at the Audio Edge’ from SAR Insight & Consulting breaks down the market into its component parts and provides market forecasts alongside expert analysis into likely trends.

##ENDS##

**For further information, please contact:**

Peter Cooney, Principal Analyst & Director, [SAR Insight & Consulting](#)

[peter@sensianresearch.com](mailto:peter@sensianresearch.com), +44 1392 580 960

**Note to editors:** [SAR Insight & Consulting](#) provides detailed quantitative and qualitative research on established and emerging technology markets across multiple end applications. [www.sarinsight.com](http://www.sarinsight.com)