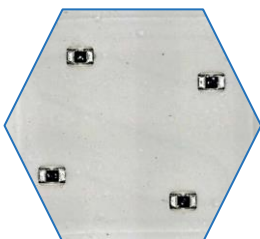
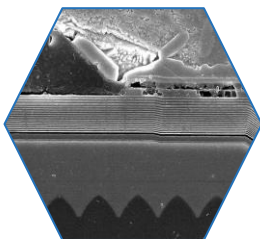


MiniLED Backlight Unit in the 2021 Apple iPad Pro

In-depth technical and cost analysis of the first consumer miniLED backlight unit and its assembly.



Title: MiniLED backlight unit in the 2021 Apple iPad Pro

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After more than three years of hype, excitement, and unfulfilled promises, miniLED backlights are finally ready for prime time. MiniLED monitors and laptops have been available since late 2020 and most leading TV brands are adopting miniLED backlights in their 2021 flagship models. The highly anticipated miniLED Apple iPad pro was officially announced in April 2021.

Properly designed miniLED backlights allow LCD displays to reach contrast performance close to that of OLEDs, while maintaining the high brightness characteristics of LCDs. All of this while offering reduced power consumption, a very thin form factor (thickness), and cost/price competitiveness with OLED. With this newest iPad Pro, Apple is really bringing this newer display technology to the consumer. As many different supply chain and technology choices are not settled yet, this System Plus Consulting teardown report provides great insights into the choices Apple is bringing to the table.

In this report, System Plus Consulting provides a full reverse costing study of the miniLEDs and their assembly in the backlight unit of the display in the 12.9-inch 2021 iPad Pro.

The new backlighting system is composed of 10,384 miniLEDs divided into 2,596 local dimming zones.

- The miniLEDs, which are GaN-based dies on patterned sapphire substrate, have an engineered light-emission pattern using dedicated top and back dielectric reflectors. We estimate that they are manufactured by Epistar in Taiwan.
- The chip-on-board assembly of the more than 10,000 miniLEDs is believed to be done by TSMC in Taiwan. The miniLEDs are mounted in flip-chip configuration.
- The miniLEDs are driven by nine drivers from STMicroelectronics. These drivers are wafer-level chip-scale packaged.

This report provides insights regarding technology data, manufacturing cost, and selling price of the BLU, with a focus on the miniLEDs and their drivers. Also included is an estimated manufacturing cost of all the BLU's components and a selling price analysis.

COMPLETE TEARDOWN WITH

- Detailed optical and SEM photos
- Precise measurements
- Materials analysis
- Manufacturing process flow
- Supply chain evaluation
- Manufacturing cost analysis
- Estimated selling price

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Dr. Youssef El Gmili has joined System Plus Consulting's team in 2019 after ten years passed on high level research and development on microelectronics. He has a deep knowledge in the study and analysis of semiconductors Materials. He holds a Master Degree in Microelectronics, and a Phd in Physics/Materials Science.

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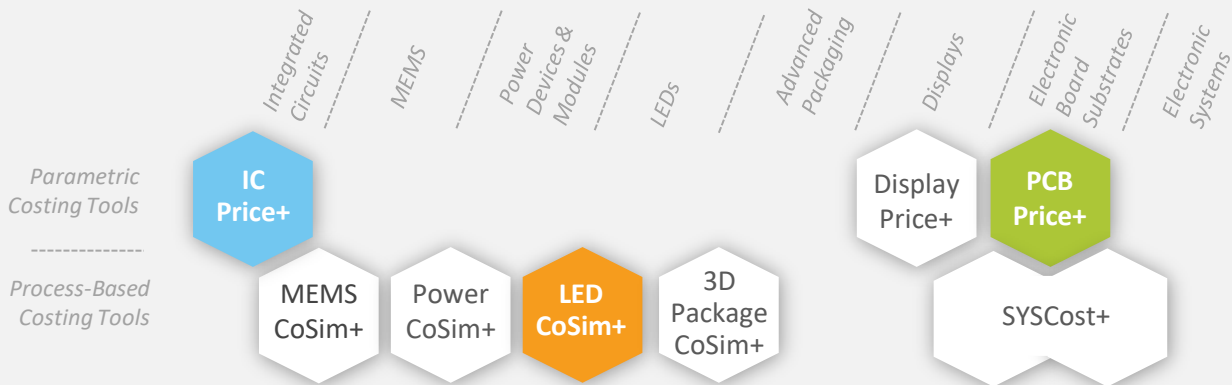


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Strong momentum for MicroLED with progress on all fronts. Cost is the biggest challenge, but Apple and Samsung are carving paths toward the consumer.

August 2021 - EUR 6,490*

COSTING TOOLS



Our analysis is performed with our costing tools IC Price+, PCB Price+ and LED CoSim+.

System Plus Consulting offers powerful costing tools to evaluate any process or device, the production cost and selling price, from single chip to complex structures. All these tools are on sale under corporate license.

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The tool performs the necessary cost simulation of any Integrated Circuit: ASICs, microcontrollers, DSP, memories, smartpower...

LED CoSim+

Process-based costing tool to design and evaluate the cost of any LED process flow.

PCB Price+

Calculation of the real price impacts. From layer count, copper thickness, to change of manufacturing country, or the increasing of raw material costs.

WHAT IS A REVERSE COSTING®?

Reverse Costing® is the process of disassembling a device (or a system) in order to identify its technology and calculate its manufacturing cost, using in-house models and tools.



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Definitions: "Acceptance": Action by which the Buyer accepts the terms and conditions of sale in their entirety. It is done by signing the purchase order which mentions "I hereby accept Yole Développement's Terms and Conditions of Sale".

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Reports are established in PowerPoint and delivered in a PDF format with an additional Excel file. 30 min of Q&A session with an analyst/author can be included for all purchased reports (except the ones bought in one user license). More time can be allocated on a fee basis.

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ANY ADDITIONAL, DIFFERENT, OR CONFLICTING TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE BUYER AT ANY TIME ARE HEREBY OBJECTED TO BY THE SELLER, SHALL BE WHOLLY INAPPLICABLE TO ANY SALE MADE HEREUNDER AND SHALL NOT BE BINDING IN ANY WAY ON THE SELLER.

1.2 This agreement becomes valid and enforceable between the Contracting Parties after clear and non-equivocal consent by any duly authorized person representing the Buyer. For these purposes, the Buyer accepts these conditions of sales when signing the purchase order which mentions "I hereby accept Yole Développement's Terms and Conditions of Sale". This results in acceptance by the Buyer.

1.3 Orders are deemed to be accepted only upon written acceptance and confirmation by the Seller, within [7 days] from the date of order, to be sent either by email or to the Buyer's address. In the absence of any confirmation in writing, orders shall be deemed to have been accepted.

2. MAILING OF THE PRODUCTS

2.1 Products are sent by email to the Buyer:

- Within a few days from the order for Products already released and paid; or
- Within a reasonable time for Products ordered prior to their effective release. In this case, the Seller shall use its best endeavours to inform the Buyer of an indicative release date and the evolution of the work in progress.

2.2 The Seller shall by no means be responsible for any delay in respect of article 2.1 above, and including in cases where a new event or access to new contradictory information would require for the analyst extra time to compute or compare the data in order to enable the Seller to deliver a high quality Products.

2.3 The mailing of the Product will occur only upon payment by the Buyer, in accordance with the conditions contained in article 3.

2.4. The mailing is operated through electronic means either by email via the sales department or automatically online via an email/password. If the Product's electronic delivery format is defective, the Seller undertakes to replace it at no charge to the Buyer provided that it is informed of the defective formatting within 90 days from the date of the original download or receipt of the Product.

2.5 The person receiving the Products on behalf of the Buyer shall immediately verify the quality of the Products and their conformity to the order. Any claim for apparent defects or for non-conformity shall be sent in writing to the Seller within 8 days of receipt of the Products. For this purpose, the Buyer agrees to produce sufficient evidence of such defects.

2.6 No return of Products shall be accepted without prior information to the Seller, even in case of delayed delivery. Any Product returned to the Seller without providing prior information to the Seller as required under article 2.5 shall remain at the Buyer's risk.

3. PRICE, INVOICING AND PAYMENT

3.1 Prices are given in the orders corresponding to each Product sold on a unit basis or corresponding to annual subscriptions. They are expressed to be inclusive of all taxes (except for France where VAT will be added). The prices are re-evaluated from time to time. The effective price is deemed to be the one applicable at the time of the order.

3.2 Payments due by the Buyer shall be sent by cheque payable to Yole Développement, credit card or by electronic transfer to the following account:

HSBC, 1 place de la Bourse 69002 Lyon France

Bank code: 30056

Branch code: 00170

Account n°: 0170 200 1565 87

BIC or SWIFT code: CCFRFRPP

IBAN: FR76 3005 6001 7001 7020 0156 587

To ensure the payments, the Seller reserves the right to request down payments from the Buyer. In this case, the need of down payments will be mentioned on the order.

3.4 Payment is due by the Buyer to the Seller within 30 days from invoice date, except in the case of a particular written agreement. If the Buyer fails to pay within this time and fails to contact the Seller, the latter shall be entitled to invoice interest in arrears based on the annual rate Refi of the «BCE» + 7 points, in accordance with article L. 441-6 of the French Commercial Code. Our publications (report, database, tool...) are delivered only after reception of the payment.

3.5 In the event of termination of the contract, or of misconduct, during the contract, the Seller will have the right to invoice at the stage in progress, and to take legal action for damages.

4. LIABILITIES

4.1 The Buyer or any other individual or legal person acting on its behalf, being a business user buying the Products for its business activities, shall be solely responsible for choosing the Products and for the use and interpretations he makes of the documents it purchases, of the results he obtains, and of the advice and acts it deduces therefrom.

4.2 The Seller shall only be liable for (i) direct and (ii) foreseeable pecuniary loss, caused by the Products or arising from a material breach of this agreement

4.3 In no event shall the Seller be liable for:

- a) Damages of any kind, including without limitation, incidental or consequential damages (including, but not limited to, damages for loss of profits, business interruption and loss of programs or information) arising out of the use of or inability to use the Seller's website or the Products, or any information provided on the website, or in the Products;
- b) Any claim attributable to errors, omissions or other inaccuracies in the Product or interpretations thereof.

4.4 All the information contained in the Products has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. The Seller does not warrant the accuracy, completeness adequacy or reliability of such information, which cannot be guaranteed to be free from errors.

4.5 All the Products that the Seller sells may, upon prior notice to the Buyer from time to time be modified by or substituted with similar Products meeting the needs of the Buyer. This modification shall not lead to the liability of the Seller, provided that the Seller ensures the substituted Product is similar to the Product initially ordered.

4.6 In the case where, after inspection, it is acknowledged that the Products contain defects, the Seller undertakes to replace the defective products as far as the supplies allow and without indemnities or compensation of any kind for labour costs, delays, loss caused or any other reason. The replacement is guaranteed for a maximum of two months starting from the delivery date. Any replacement is excluded for any event as set out in article 5 below.

4.7 The deadlines that the Seller is asked to state for the mailing of the Products are given for information only and are not guaranteed. If such deadlines are not met, it shall not lead to any damages or cancellation of the orders, except for non-acceptable delays exceeding [3] months from the stated deadline, without information from the Seller. In such case only, the Buyer shall be entitled to ask for a reimbursement of its first down payment to the exclusion of any further damages.

4.8 The Seller does not make any warranties, express or implied, including, without limitation, those of sale ability and fitness for a particular purpose, with respect to the Products. Although the Seller shall take reasonable steps to screen Products for infection by viruses, worms, Trojan horses or other codes containing contaminating or destructive properties before making the Products available, the Seller cannot guarantee that any Product will be free from infection.

5. FORCE MAJEURE

The Seller shall not be liable for any delay in performance directly or indirectly caused by or resulting from acts of nature, fire, flood, accident, riot, war, government intervention, embargoes, strikes, labour difficulties, equipment failure, late deliveries by suppliers or other difficulties which are beyond the control, and not the fault of the Seller.

6. PROTECTION OF THE SELLER'S IPR

6.1 All the IPR attached to the Products are and remain the property of the Seller and are protected under French and international copyright law and conventions.

6.2 The Buyer agreed not to disclose, copy, reproduce, redistribute, resell or publish the Product, or any part of it to any other party other than employees of its company (only in the country of the primary user). The Buyer shall have the right to use the Products solely for its own internal information purposes. In particular, the Buyer shall therefore not use the Product for purposes such as:

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- Use in any timesharing, service bureau, bulletin board or similar arrangement or public display;
- Posting any Product to any other online service (including bulletin boards or the Internet);
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6.4 The Buyer shall be solely responsible towards the Seller of all infringements of this obligation, whether this infringement comes from its employees or any person to whom the Buyer has sent the Products and shall personally take care of any related proceedings, and the Buyer shall bear related financial consequences in their entirety.

6.5 The Buyer shall define within its company a contact point for the needs of the contract. This person will be the recipient of each new report. This person shall also be responsible for respect of the copyrights and will guaranty that the Products are not disseminated out of the company. In the context of Bundle and Annual Subscriptions, the contact person shall decide who within the Buyer, shall be entitled to receive the protected link that will allow the Buyer to access the Products.

6.6 Please note that whether in Bundles or Annual Subscription, all unselected reports will be cancelled and lost after the 12 month validity period of the contract.

6.7 As a matter of fact the investor of a company, external consultants, the joint venture done with a third party, and so on cannot access the report and should pay a full license price.

7. TERMINATION

7.1 If the Buyer cancels the order in whole or in part or postpones the date of mailing, the Buyer shall indemnify the Seller for the entire costs that have been incurred as at the date of notification by the Buyer of such delay or cancellation. This may also apply for any other direct or indirect consequential loss that may be borne by the Seller, following this decision.

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Any notices under these Terms and Conditions shall be given in writing. They shall be effective upon receipt by the other Party.

The Seller may, from time to time, update these Terms and Conditions and the Buyer, is deemed to have accepted the latest version of these terms and conditions, provided they have been communicated to him in due time.

9. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

9.1 Any dispute arising out or linked to these Terms and Conditions or to any contract/orders entered into in application of these Terms and Conditions shall be settled by the French Commercial Courts of Lyon, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction upon such issues.

9.2 French law shall govern the relation between the Buyer and the Seller, in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.