

#### Breaking the Barriers of Sound

Market Overview May 2015 ASX: AKP; OTCQX: ADPXY



# Loudspeakers are Rooted in Century Old Technology

"While the industry at large has been able to digitize, shrink and enhance all other device electronics, the last remaining barrier is the speaker, which remains large, heavy, bulky, and very analog."



Voice Coil Magazine 2015

As electronic devices have grown thinner, smaller, and more mobile, speaker technology has not kept pace.

Modern devices no longer have the space and power to provide quality audio



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# Audio Pixels brings both higher quality sound and a thinner footprint to the electronics market.

Analog speakers require compromise as sound quality shrinks along with speaker size.



Secondary speakers or other creative options are currently the only solutions for poor quality audio. Audio Pixels' has demonstrated improved sound reproduction in multiple tests.



Phase III testing verified significantly better sound quality. (03/2015)

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# What is an Audio Pixels Speaker?

A revolutionary new way to reproduce sound, with patents in the fields of micro-electro-mechanical structures (MEMS), pressure generation, acoustic wave generation, control, signal processing, and packaging.





	Conventional Speaker	Audio Pixels Speaker
	Electromechanical Assembly	Semiconductor Chip
Magnet	Required	Not required
Voice Coil	Required	Not required
Cone	Required	Not required
Number of Components	4-15	1
Drive Circuitry	External	Integrated
Digital to Analog Conversion	Required	Not required
Enclosure or Chamber	Required	Not Required
Surface Mount Compatible	No	Yes



## How does it work?



Sound waves are generated from the summation of discrete pulses produced from an array of micro-transducers.

As with analog speakers, different frequencies are produced by varying the timing of the motion.



micro-transducer array



Ρ

# DSR is different than any other speaker technology

#### Unlike analog speakers ...



- the Audio Pixels micro-transducers do NOT require a large dynamic range. This allows the array to be constructed from identical elements all finely tuned to a particular frequency.

- the chips can be used either as a standalone microspeaker or cascaded in any multiples of the same chip to replicate the desired function of the speaker.





- there is no need for a DAC, amplifier, or enclosure; meaning fewer parts and a much smaller footprint.



Not just smaller, but better: The chips have higher energy efficiency, lower harmonic distortion, faster transient response, and improved flatness; with a two-octave (frequency) gain.



# Audio Pixels Sets New Standards In Sound Quality

#### What you hear today



Audio Pixels has achieved sound pressure levels (SPL) within the low frequency spectrum that were previously believed by experts to be unattainable within a micro form factor; measuring 80dB (decibels) at 250Hz for a standalone chip.



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Audio Pixels delivers a 150% wider frequency range than current phone speaker technology



## Truly disruptive for every device that uses loudspeakers

Form factors will change dramatically



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Every product with speakers will undergo design changes

#### What was external -



- can become embedded



## Value Analysis

Audio Pixels delivers a superior sound experience in every known device category



	Handheld	IOT / Wearable	Tablets & Laptops	Display	Smart Phones	Television
Primary Strength	High quality audio within device size constraints ("thinness")					
Secondary	Reduced power consumption		Enabling farReducedReducedsmallerpowervibrationfootprintconsumption			
Strengths	Reliability and ease of assembly					





While the technology is novel, the manufacturing process is not.



Audio Pixels is currently working with some of the industry's leading suppliers to develop its manufacturing capabilities.



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Winning Combinations

# Addressable Market

# the last 75 years have shown...pretty much EVERYONE

# **Primary Market Segmentation**

Except for the lowest price point segment of the market, Audio Pixels has the potential to target every device that uses speakers.



#### Embedded

- Smartphone
- Tablet/Phablet
- Laptop

#### - Computer

- Television
- Display
- IOT

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#### - Wearables

- Others...



#### <u>Consumer</u>

- Docking Station
- Portable
- Multimedia
- Paired
- Woofers
- Surround Sound
- In-wall
- Outdoor
- Others...



#### Specific

- Automotive
- Airline
- Train
- Others...



#### **Customized**

- Parametric Applications
- Sensors
- Ultrasonic
- Medical
- Security
- Others...

# Segment Breakdown

Global Demand for micro-speakers is expected to exceed 8 billion units in 2015, growing to over 13 billion by 2020.







# Segment Breakdown – Micro Loudspeaker

The market is highly competitive, with a diverse, international cast of manufacturers targeting dozens of product categories.





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Breaking the Barr



#### Embedded

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- Tablet/Phablet
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# Home Market – Standalone Speakers and Systems (not including soundbars)





# Home loudspeaker growth is led by demand for subwoofer and multimedia products





Consumer

- Docking Station
- Portable
- Multimedia
- Paired
- Woofers
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- In-wall
- Outdoor
- Others...

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Source: Global Industry Analysts

# Home Market – Standalone Speakers and Systems

#### Global soundbar sales will reach 9.9 million units in 2015





Consumer

- Docking Station
- Portable
- Multimedia
- Paired
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- Surround Sound
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- Outdoor
- Others...



Growth is expected in every home market category. The Bluetooth (Portable) speakers market will reach \$7 billion by 2019.

Source Infiniti Research Limited – Nov. 2014

# Automotive (Aviation) Audio / Infotainment Market



At \$3.4 billion, automotive represents an important future market for Audio Pixels. Premium Audio, featuring systems with a dozen or more speakers, has strong OEM penetration in Europe (17%), North America (12%), and Asia (9%).



Specific - Automotive - Airline

- Train
- Others...

	2010	2011	2012E
HARMAN	2738	3406	3802
Continetal	1829	1863	1913
PIONEER	2895	3303	3972
ALPINE	2294	2567	2785
CLARION	2032	2363	2405
PANASONIC	3238	3331	4080
FUJITSU-TEN	2482	2358	2302
JVC-KENWOOD	1232	1358	1426
Hyundai Mobis	1189	1306	1488
Delphi	1206	1202	1226
Visteon	462	508	522
Denso	1493	1595	1860
Aisin AW	862	974	1149
Mitsubishi Electric	1822	2008	2309

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The Audio Pixels Solution is uniquely suited to the automotive market due to:

- Size & weight advantages
- Sound quality
- Speaker positioning
- Directionality
- Power consumption
- Noise cancelation
- Wiring
- and other aesthetic and technical form factors.

Source: Extrapolation from accumulated Public Domain Research

RIC<Global and China Automotive Audio and Navigation Industry Report, 2011-2012>

# **Customized "Niche" Applications**

Audio Pixels is frequently approached to apply its technology to industry specific applications, thus expanding market opportunities beyond conventional loudspeaker functions.



#### Customized

- Parametric Applications
- Sensors
- Ultrasonic
- Medical
- Others...

#### Sensors





Ultrasound is already in use for touchless gesture recognition input. Audio Pixels' chips have the added advantage of also offering audible sound in the same "sensor."

The total gesture recognition and touchless sensing market is expected to reach \$22.04 billion by 2020 with a double digit CAGR.

source: marketsandmarkets Apr. 2014

# **Customized "Niche" Applications**

#### **Parametric Speaker**

Fundamentally, Audio Pixels produces Sound-from-Ultrasound allowing the speaker to project a narrow beam of sound that can be heard only along the path of the beam (directional speaker).

This effect, which is not possible using conventional loudspeakers, enables countless applications to become a new reality.





conventional loudspeakers



parametric loudspeakers



Customized

- Parametric Applications
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# **Customized "Niche" Applications**

#### **Parametric Speaker**

**Television** – projecting sound at different volumes, settings and even different languages

Automotive – Separation between driver navigation and communication to rear seat entertainment

Advertisement – projecting sound directly at the consumer

Public Safety and Museums - Transmitting warning and informational messages in airports, train stations, escalators entrances, and any other place where a message should be directed and heard only in a designated target area





Customized

- Parametric Applications
- Sensors
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- Others...





Bank Teller, Automated Teller Machines, Passport control etc... - any other application where confidential information should not be overheard

**Commercial Advertising** - billboard messaging to get the attention of the listener without distracting staff or other customers

Audio Pixels will target applications where size and high quality sound are both important.



# Target unit totals are much higher when measured in chips per speaker.

With the exception of micro-speaker applications, which generally have a 1:1 speaker to audio chip ratio, most digital versions of analog speakers will use between 2 and 64 chips.

> Audio Pixels' target speaker market will require more than 3 billion audio chips





# Investment Thesis- The Analogous Story of MEMS Microphones

#### **MEMS Microphones**

- Electret Condenser Microphone (ECM) invented at Bell Laboratories in the 1960s.
- Fundamentally unchanged. But ECM's dominated the market for roughly 50 years
- MEMS Microphones were introduced sometime in the late 90's





**Significant Cost Disadvantage** - Average microphone price per unit at the point of introduction of MEMS microphone –

ECM microphones cost less than \$0.10 per unit compared to >\$2.00 for a comparable MEMS microphone

# Investment Thesis – Analogous Study

#### Despite the cost disadvantage, MEMS microphone production accelerated

Over the past decade more than a dozen manufacturers began producing MEMS microphones, driving improvements in performance, size and cost. Nonetheless MEMS microphones remain >10x the price of ECMs.

#### How has the market responded?

- In 2013 MEMS microphone shipments overtook analog microphones
- MEMS microphone sales are expected to reach 5.4 billion units by 2017



#### 2013-2019 MEMS microphone market (in \$M)



#### And the trend continues

- Sales of MEMS microphones are expected to grow from \$1.0 billion (USD) in 2014 to \$1.4B in 2017
- Growth of the MEMS microphone market is exceeding forecasts as more microphones and more applications are added to devices.

Source: HIS technology Apr. 2014

# **Investment Thesis – Market Cap Insight**

		No C	ros	sover
		Micro		Mac
Mic	ro Speaker			
	Market Cap			
AAC	66.8B (HKD)			H
Knowles	1.7B (USD)			F
Hosiden	49B (Yen)			E
Foster	74.8B (Yen)			E
Merry	18.2B (TWD)			(
Goertek	52.2B (CNY)			



Manufacturers of micro-speakers tend to be public, with greater capital requirements to support large quantity OEM demands.

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Home Speaker				
	MCAP	Annual Revenue		
Harman International	9.4B (USD)			
Polk Audio, Inc.	Private	\$50-100M		
Boston Acoustics, Inc.	Private	\$50-100M		
Bose Corporation	Private	\$2.9B		
Cambridge SoundWorks, Inc.	Private	<\$50M		
Klipsch Group, Inc.	Private	\$150M		
Altec Lansing LLC	Acquired by Plantronics \$166M			
Martin Logan, Ltd.	Private	<\$25M		
Bowers & Wilkins	Private	NA		

Manufacturers of Home Speakers typically remain private, due to market dynamics of very high margins, relatively limited quantities, and end-user direct sales.

## **Success Factor**

Given the digital nature, enhanced sound reproduction, improved power consumption, ease of assembly and design-in, and smaller more compatible package ...there is little reason any company would continue to use conventional speaker technology.



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Audio Pixels' Thesis

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# **Key Takeaways**

Proprietary Game Changing Technology

No Direct Competition on the Horizon

**Final Phase of Productization** 

Immense, Diverse and Stable Market Opportunities



#### Breaking the Barriers of Sound