

Himax Technologies Inc. Q4 and Full Year 2025 Earnings Call Edited Transcript

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Participants

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Tiffany Yeh	Morgan Stanley

Operator

Hello, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Himax Technologies Inc. fourth Quarter and full year 2025 earnings Conference call. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. Later, we will conduct a question-and-answer session and instructions will follow at that time. As a reminder, this conference call is being recorded. I would now like to turn the conference over to Miss Karen Tiao, Head of IR/PR at Himax.

Karen Tiao - Himax Technologies, Inc. - Head of IR/PR

Welcome everyone. My name is Karen Tiao, Head of IR/PR at Himax. Joining me today are Jordan Wu, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Jessica Pan, Chief Financial Officer. After the Company's prepared comments, we have allocated time for questions in a Q&A session. If you have not yet received a copy of today's results release, please email hx_ir@himax.com.tw or HIMX@mzgroup.us or download a copy from Himax's website.

Before we begin the formal remarks, I'd like to remind everyone that some of the statements in this conference call, including statements regarding expected future financial results and industry growth, are forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those described in this conference call. A list of risk factors can be found in the Company's latest SEC filings, form 20-F in the section entitled "Risk Factors", as may be amended.

Except for the Company's full year of 2024 financials, which were provided in the Company's 20-F and filed with the SEC on April 2, 2025, the financial information included in this conference call is unaudited and consolidated and prepared in

accordance with IFRS accounting. Such financial information is generated internally and has not been subjected to the same review and scrutiny, including internal auditing procedures and external audits by an independent auditor, to which we subject our annual consolidated financial statements, and may vary materially from the audited consolidated financial information for the same period.

On today's call, I will first review the Himax consolidated financial performance for the fourth quarter and full year 2025, followed by our first quarter 2026 outlook. Jordan will then give an update on the status of our business, after which we will take questions. You can submit your questions online through the webcast or by phone. We will review our financials on an IFRS basis.

We are pleased to report that our Q4 profit was at the high end of the projected range issued on November 6, 2025, while sales and gross margin were both in line with the guidance.

Fourth quarter revenues registered \$203.1 million, representing a sequential increase of 2.0%, better than our flat quarter-over-quarter guidance. Gross margin was 30.4%, in line with our guidance of flat to slightly up from 30.2% in the previous quarter. Q4 profit per diluted ADS was 3.6 cents, at the high end of the guidance range of 2.0 to 4.0 cents.

Revenue from large display drivers came in at \$21.7 million, representing an increase of 14.2% from the previous quarter, outperforming our guidance range of a single digit increase sequentially. This was primarily due to rush orders for both TV and NB IC legacy products from panel makers. Customers' restocking of TV and monitor IC products, along with new notebook TDDI projects entering mass production during the quarter, contributed to the sequential increase. Sales of large panel driver ICs accounted for 10.7% of total revenues for the quarter, compared to 9.5% last quarter and 10.5% a year ago.

Revenue from the small and medium-sized display driver segment totaled \$139.1 million, reflecting a slight decline of 1.3% sequentially. Q4 automotive driver sales, including both traditional DDIC and TDDI, increased approximately 10% quarter over quarter, largely driven by widespread adoption of our market-leading TDDI technology among major customers across all continents. Despite softness in global automotive markets, our automotive driver IC sales for the full year 2025 grew single digit year-over-year, outpacing the broader market. Meanwhile, revenues for both smartphone

and tablet IC segments declined quarter-over-quarter, as customers pulled forward purchases in prior quarters. The small and medium-sized driver IC segment accounted for 68.5% of total sales for the quarter, compared to 70.8% in the previous quarter and 70.3% a year ago.

Q4 non-driver sales reached \$42.3 million, a 7.9% increase from the previous quarter primarily attributable to increased ASIC Tcon shipment to a leading projector customer, along with robust Tcon shipment for automotive application. Himax continues to hold an undisputed leadership position, with a dominant market share in automotive Tcon. Tcon business accounted for over 10% of total sales, with notable contributions from automotive Tcon. Also, during the quarter, our automotive OLED on-cell touch IC entered mass production with a leading brand, marking another milestone and strengthening the foundation for future growth. Non-driver products accounted for 20.8% of total revenues, as compared to 19.7% in the previous quarter and 19.2% a year ago.

Fourth quarter operating expenses were \$54.9 million, a decrease of 9.6% from the previous quarter but increase of 11.6% compared to the same period last year. The sequential decrease was mainly attributed to a reduction in annual employee bonuses and the depreciation of the NT dollar against the U.S. dollar, partially offset by an increase in tape-out expenses. As part of our standard company practice, annual cash and RSU bonuses are granted at the end of September each year, leading to higher IFRS operating expenses in Q3 than in other quarters. The year-over-year increase was primarily driven by the increase in tape-out expenses. Salary expenses and the appreciation of the NT dollar against the U.S. dollar were also factors behind the year-over-year increase. Amid ongoing macroeconomic challenges, we continue to exercise strict budget and expense controls.

Fourth quarter operating profit was \$6.8 million, representing an operating margin of 3.4%, compared to negative 0.3% in the previous quarter and 9.7% for the same period last year. The sequential increase was the result of increased revenue and higher gross margin as well as lower operating expenses. The year-over-year decline reflected the lower sales and gross margin, coupled with higher operating expenses. Q4 after-tax profit was \$6.3 million, or 3.6 cents per diluted ADS, compared to \$1.1 million, or 0.6 cents per diluted ADS last quarter, and down from \$24.6 million, or 14.0 cents in the same period last year.

Now, let's quickly review the financial performance for the full year 2025. 2025 was a challenging year for the global economy, shaped by tariff and other geopolitical uncertainties. Panel customers generally maintained a conservative, make-to-order strategy with lean inventory levels. While consumer electronics demand remained soft, automotive and AI-related applications, where Himax has strong exposure, proved comparatively resilient. Despite disciplined expense control, our full-year 2025 operating expenses increased by 1.1% as we strategically invested in select non-display IC areas with compelling long-term growth potential, some of which are poised to ramp meaningfully starting in 2027.

Reflecting these challenging market conditions, our 2025 full year revenues totaled \$832.2 million, a decline of 8.2% compared to 2024. Revenue from large panel display drivers totaled \$90.7 million in 2025, marking a decrease of 28.0% year-over-year, and representing 10.9% of total sales, as compared to 13.9% in 2024. Small and medium-sized driver sales totaled \$575.1 million, reflecting a decrease of 8.0% year-over-year, and accounting for 69.1% of our total revenues, as compared to 69.0% in 2024. Non-driver product sales totaled \$166.4 million, an increase of 7.0% year-over-year, and representing 20.0% of our total sales, as compared to 17.1% a year ago.

Gross margin in 2025 was 30.6%, slightly up from 30.5% in 2024. Operating expenses in 2025 were \$210.2 million, a slight increase of 1.1% from 2024, primarily due to increase in tape-out and salary expenses, as well as the appreciation of the NT dollar against the U.S. dollar in 2025, partially offset by the lower employee bonus compensation compared to last year. 2025 operating income was \$44.1 million, or 5.3% of sales, as compared to \$68.2 million, or 7.5% of sales, in 2024. Our net profit for 2025 was \$43.9 million, or \$0.25 per diluted ADS, a decline from \$79.8 million, or \$0.46 per diluted ADS in 2024.

Turning to the balance sheet, we had \$286.2 million of cash, cash equivalents and other financial assets as of December 31, 2025. This compares to \$224.6 million at the same time last year and \$278.2 million a quarter ago. Q4 operating cash inflow was \$16.8 million, compared to an inflow of \$6.7 million in the prior quarter. We had \$28.5 million in long-term unsecured loans, with \$6.0 million representing the current portion at the end of 2025.

Our year-end inventories were \$152.7 million, an increase from \$137.4 million last quarter but lower than \$158.7 million a year ago. Accounts receivable at the end of December 2025 was \$200.9 million, little changed from last quarter but down from

\$236.8 million a year ago. DSO was 88 days at the quarter end, as compared to 87 days last quarter and 96 days a year ago. Fourth quarter capital expenditures were \$4.0 million, versus \$6.3 million last quarter and \$3.2 million a year ago. Fourth quarter capex was mainly for R&D related equipment for our IC design business. Total capital expenditures for 2025 were \$20.1 million as compared to \$13.1 million in 2024. The increase was primarily due to the construction in progress for the new preschool near our Tainan headquarters built for employees' children, with completion expected by the end of Q2 2026.

As of December 31, 2025, Himax had 174.4 million ADS outstanding, little changed from last quarter. On a fully diluted basis, the total number of ADS outstanding for the fourth quarter was 174.5 million.

Now, turning to our first quarter 2026 guidance. We expect Q1 revenues to decline 2.0% to 6.0% sequentially. Gross margin is expected to be flat to slightly down, depending on product mix. Q1 profit attributable to shareholders is estimated to be in the range of 2.0 to 4.0 cents per fully diluted ADS.

I will now turn the call over to Jordan to discuss our Q1 2026 outlook. Jordan, the floor is yours.

[Jordan Wu - Himax Technologies, Inc. - Co-Founder, President & CEO](#)

Thank you, Karen. Overall, market conditions remain under pressure from ongoing macroeconomic uncertainty. Recent sharp price increases in memory have further weighed on the market sentiment for electronic products. However, compared with consumer products, the automotive segment, which accounts for over half of Himax's total sales, is more immune to memory price fluctuations.

Having said that, our visibility for the whole year outlook of automotive sector remains limited amid the backdrop of uncertain government policy and consumer sentiment. However, we expect the first quarter to be the trough of the year, with sales rebounding in the second quarter and business momentum continuing to improve into the second half, supported by lean customer inventory levels and new projects for automotive customers scheduled to enter mass production later in the year. In addition, continued growth in our non-driver IC businesses, particularly Tcon and WiseEye AI, should provide incremental support.

In the automotive display IC business, we remain optimistic about our long-term business outlook, backed by our leading new technology offerings and strong design-win pipeline. In DDIC and TDDI, we have already secured hundreds of design wins, commanding 40% market share in automotive DDIC and well over half in the global TDDI market, maintaining a substantial lead over competitors. Concurrently, Himax has also established strong technology leadership in all emerging automotive display areas, including automotive Tcon with advanced local dimming functionality, LTI for large-size automotive displays, advanced Tcon solutions for advanced head-up displays, automotive OLED panels and Micro LED technologies. A growing number of customers are accelerating the adoption of these advanced display technologies in new vehicle models, driving new growth momentum for Himax's automotive display IC business in the years ahead. We believe the automotive market still offers significant upside potential, driven by rapid innovation and ongoing advancements in smart cabin as well as more vivid, intuitive and immersive displays such as knob-on-display, curved display, large-sized HUD on windshield, Micro LED for both interior and exterior of the vehicle, and many more.

Despite lingering economic uncertainty, beyond our mainstream business of display IC solutions, we continue to expand into areas such as ultralow power AI for endpoint devices, Front-lit LCoS microdisplay and waveguide for AR glasses, and WLO for co-packaged optics. All these technologies are seeing exciting upside potential in the next couple of years, driven by the recent breakout of AI. As adoption continues to broaden, some of these technologies have already begun translating into real-world applications with more expected to follow suit in the near future. We expect these initiatives to become new meaningful growth drivers while also improving our product mix and overall profitability. Some of these advanced technological capabilities were showcased through multiple live demonstrations at CES earlier this year.

First, on ultralow power AI, we are differentiated in the market by offering total solutions that integrate in-house AI processor, CMOS image sensor, and algorithm, helping customers streamline development and accelerate time to market. Himax's industry-leading WiseEye AI features industry-leading ultralow power design, with power consumption at just single-digit milliwatt levels. Combined with a compact form factor, on-device AI inferencing, and 24/7 always-on image and voice sensing, WiseEye is empowering battery-powered endpoint devices across a wide range of new AI applications. For use cases requiring real-time voice and vision sensing, WiseEye also serves as an ideal perceptual front end for large language models, working in tandem with LLMs to enhance a device's ability to perceive and understand real-world contexts

and deliver a more intelligent, responsive, and low-latency human-machine interaction. This capability is reflected in applications such as keyword spotting for AI PCs and environmental awareness and sensing in smart glasses.

At CES this year, Himax showcased a broad portfolio of WiseEye-powered endpoint AI solutions spanning applications including smart home, security and surveillance, automotive, smart city, access control, AI PCs and smart glasses. One notable example in the field of security applications is the newly introduced WiseGuard solution, a significant technological innovation for next-generation security applications. WiseGuard features high-accuracy AI sensing even in low-luminance environments along with proactive key events capture, all while consuming merely mini-watt level power, thereby extending battery life for end devices. I will elaborate on this later. All these demonstrations reinforced WiseEye's growing relevance across multiple end markets. After many years of R&D and promotion, we expect to see very strong growth for the WiseEye business starting from this year.

Turning to smart glasses, one of Himax's key strategic focus areas. We are uniquely positioned as one of the few companies with both microdisplay and low power AI capabilities, both critical for the success of AR glasses. Fueled by the rapid advancement of AI, the smart glasses market is undergoing a strong resurgence, creating significant new opportunities for WiseEye AI and LCoS microdisplays. Smart glasses developers can leverage WiseEye's ultralow power AI capabilities to enhance device interactivity, supporting both outward-facing environmental awareness and object recognition, as well as inward-facing eye-tracking and iris authentication. This allows smart glasses to simultaneously understand user intent and external surroundings, delivering a more natural and seamless human-machine interaction experience. In microdisplay, Himax's latest proprietary Front-lit LCoS microdisplay achieves an optimal balance among size, weight, power consumption, resolution, and cost, while meeting the stringent optical performance requirements of next-generation see-through AR smart glasses. Our LCoS solution is a full-color microdisplay which can be configured for a high brightness, low power green-only mode, and switched back upon command from the central processor, seamlessly covering both indoor and outdoor usages. Himax is working closely with multiple waveguide partners across China, Europe, Isreal, Japan, Taiwan and the U.S., bundling each other's technologies into complete display systems for AR glasses, with several joint achievements demonstrated at CES.

Before turning to our segment outlook, I'd like to highlight our progress in CPO. Himax continues to make solid progress in collaboration with our strategic partner, FOCI. Our main goal for 2026 is to complete mass-production readiness with just small quantity shipment for the year. In addition, we are actively advancing multiple future generations of high-speed optical transmission technologies and advanced CPO architectures. These efforts focus on higher fiber channel density and more sophisticated optical designs to support the increasingly demanding requirements. Specifically, in collaboration with the leading global customer and partner, Himax and FOCI are finalizing the manufacturing process of a state-of-the-art design supporting 6.4T transmission bandwidth, a spec positioned for the AI data center market with the biggest volume potential while demanding the highest transmission bandwidth.

Recently, FOCI successfully completed an equity rights issue of NT\$3.16 billion to fund equipment purchases and prepare for CPO mass production. Himax participated in the share subscription, demonstrating our continuous support for our partner and further strengthening the collaboration between the two companies. Himax expects CPO to become an important contributor to both revenue and profitability over the next few years.

With that, I will now begin with an update on the large panel driver IC business. In Q1, large display driver IC sales are expected to increase single digit sequentially, mainly driven by continued replenishment of TV IC product from Chinese panel customers, carried over from Q4 last year.

Looking ahead, our focus in the notebook market is on premium models featuring OLED displays and touch functionality. This trend is being reinforced by recent rising memory prices, which have put pressure on lower-end notebook models and further accelerated the shift toward higher-end devices. Himax offers a full spectrum of IC solutions for both LCD and OLED notebooks, including DDICs, Tcons, touch controllers, and TDDI. This broad product coverage allows us to address diverse panel architectures and system designs while increasing our content per device. During the first quarter, we began mass production of our touch IC for OLED notebooks with a leading notebook vendor, marking a milestone for another key application for our OLED on-cell touch technology beyond automotive. By leveraging proven touch integration capabilities from automotive applications and extending them into consumer electronics, we are creating new growth opportunities in premium OLED IT devices.

Tcon solutions are a key pillar of our notebook display IC portfolio, playing a critical role in image enhancement and system-level integration, strengthening our ability to provide customers with a comprehensive one-stop solution. We continue to expand our notebook Tcon portfolio to address diverse customer design requirements and cost considerations. Our solutions support a wide range of panel resolutions, refresh rates, and gaming-oriented applications, while delivering high value-added features with a strong focus on power efficiency, which is becoming increasingly important for thin-and-light and AI PCs.

Turning to the small and medium-sized display driver IC business. In Q1, small and medium-sized display driver IC business is expected to decline single digit from last quarter. Q1 automotive driver IC sales, including TDDI and traditional DDIC, are set to decrease by double digit quarter-over-quarter, following two consecutive quarters of order replenishment. The decrease also reflects typical seasonal softness related to the Lunar New Year holidays, along with the tapering effect of automotive subsidy programs in major markets such as China and the US. That said, our long-term competitive position remains solid, supported by hundreds of design wins already secured across TDDI, DDIC, Tcon, and an expanding OLED portfolio. In addition, our diversified foundry footprint enables supply flexibility and allows us to better navigate shifts in customer demand. We continue to lead the global automotive display market with a 40% share in DDIC, well over half in TDDI, and an even higher market share in local dimming Tcon.

Himax also continues to lead in automotive display IC innovation by pioneering solutions across a wide range of panel types while addressing diverse design needs and cost considerations. For example, in ultra-large touch displays, we introduced the industry's first LTI solution back in 2023, which has already been mass produced in several vehicle models. Design activity continues to expand across continents, and after several years of sustained effort, we expect meaningful revenue contributions starting this year. For smaller displays with form factors and budget constraints, we provide single-chip solutions that combine TDDI and local dimming Tcon, an attractive choice for customers as it can significantly reduce cost and improve power efficiency.

Looking ahead, OLED panel adoption in automotive displays is expected to accelerate, creating an opportunity for Himax to further strengthen our leadership in the automotive display market. Our ASIC OLED driver and Tcon solutions have already been in mass production for a few years, and we now offer new standard IC products to support broader and more scalable deployment. At the same time, we continue to

collaborate with leading panel makers on new custom ASICs to meet diverse customer requirements. Together, these efforts position Himax to capture increasing semiconductor content as premium automotive display technologies evolve from LCD to OLED. Complementing our OLED portfolio for automotive applications, we are also a leader in advanced OLED touch ICs, featuring industry-leading signal-to-noise ratio performance that ensures reliable operation even under challenging conditions such as glove or wet-finger use. Our OLED touch ICs entered mass production in 2024 and continue to see a growing design-in pipeline globally, many of which are scheduled to enter mass production in the coming quarters.

Moving to smartphone IC sales, we expect Q1 smartphone revenue, covering both LCD and OLED products, to increase quarter over quarter as new OLED solutions begin mass production with a leading panel maker for a leading smartphone brand's mainstream model. For tablet ICs, Q1 sales are also expected to grow sequentially, driven by the commencement of IC shipment for customer's new premium OLED tablet. Moving forward in tablet market, we are advancing new technologies that enable value-added features such as active stylus, ultra-slim bezel design, higher frame rates, and power-saving architectures, positioning Himax to capture more semiconductor content in next-generation premium tablets while reinforcing our competitive edge.

I'd like to now turn to our non-driver IC business update where we expect Q1 revenue to decrease single digit sequentially.

First for an update on our Tcon business. We anticipate Q1 Tcon sales to decline by a single-digit quarter over quarter, primarily due to the absence of ASIC Tcon shipments to a leading projector customer that occurred in the prior quarter. The sequential decline also reflects a moderation in automotive Tcon shipments following several quarters of solid growth, which we view as normal seasonality rather than a change in underlying demand. For the full year 2025, our automotive Tcon sales still grew approximately 50% year over year. Backed by hundreds of secured design wins, this momentum provides a strong foundation for sustained growth. Tcon for monitor, notebook and TV products is expected to increase sequentially in Q1, primarily a result of customers replenishing inventory for high-end products.

Meanwhile, head-up displays are poised to become a central element of next-generation smart cockpits, a trend clearly highlighted at CES, where numerous panel makers and automotive names, equipped with our IC solutions, showcased their latest

trendy and innovative HUD concepts. HUD for automotive is rapidly evolving from simple text and symbols to high-brightness, high-contrast, AR-enriched visuals integrated into automotive displays. This shift is driving demand for sophisticated Tcon technologies, an area where Himax holds a strong leadership position in automotive display Tcon solutions.

To address this trend, we introduced a multifunctional integrated Tcon featuring the industry's first full-area selectable local de-warping capability, combined with Himax's market-leading local dimming and on-screen display technologies, offering the flexibility to meet diverse design and cost requirements while simplifying overall system integration. This new Tcon continues to deliver exceptional contrast performance while effectively eliminating the "postcard effect" in HUDs, a common issue caused by light leakage in conventional TFT-LCD panels. Our industry-leading OSD function is also integrated, ensuring that critical safety information remains visible even when the main system is powered down, thereby enhancing overall driving safety.

The new Tcon solution supports a broad range of HUD architectures, including Windshield HUD, Augmented Reality HUD, and Panoramic HUD. Multiple customer projects are already underway with leading panel makers and Tier 1 players, reflecting strong market recognition of our advanced HUD Tcon technology.

Switching gears to the WiseEye product line, a cutting-edge ultralow power AI sensing total solution, targeting endpoint device markets. As AI advances at an unprecedented pace, WiseEye stands out with context-aware, on-device AI inferencing that combines industry-leading power efficiency, consuming only a few milliwatts, with a compact form factor and robust, industrial-grade security and pre-trained no-code/low-code AI algorithm, enabling easy deployment across a broad spectrum of applications. This powerful combination unlocks advanced AI capabilities in endpoint devices that were once constrained by power and size limitations. This is driving innovative new product concepts across a broad range of applications, from notebooks, surveillance and access control to smart home, smart retail, and more recently, smart glasses, which the industry widely expects to become the next breakout market.

Starting with notebooks, WiseEye's human presence detection is seeing expanding adoption among leading global brands, driven by its ultralow power consumption, instant responsiveness, and privacy-centric design, well aligned with the industry's move toward always-aware, AI-driven PCs. Building on this foundation, additional feature enhancements are being developed to address more complex real-world

scenarios while preserving exceptional power efficiency and improving user convenience. One example is gesture recognition that emulates keyboard inputs, enabling users to scroll pages or adjust volume without touching the keyboard. Another advanced feature currently under development for next-generation AI PCs is a voice-activated keyword-spotting function. Here WiseEye acts as an ultralow power front end that continuously monitors audio and performs wake-word detection, activating the main CPU only when a designated trigger phrase is recognized. This advanced feature enables continuous audio monitoring, even in noisy environments, while maintaining minimal impact on overall system power consumption.

In the surveillance domain, at the recent CES we introduced our latest WiseGuard endpoint AI solutions, highlighting the versatile deployment of WiseEye AI in security applications. WiseGuard is a turnkey solution capable of accurately detecting and tracking multiple individuals, including their presence, location, and movement. Its proactive and continuous sensing capability enables security systems to anticipate and capture important events in advance, providing more forward-looking protection compared with traditional reactive security solutions. WiseGuard performs always-on sensing and AI processing at single digit mini-watt level, enabling up to five years of battery life and reliable, low-maintenance operation in compact, battery-powered devices. At the same time, it maintains high-precision event detection at distances of up to 10 meters and under extreme low light environments. Immediately after its debut, WiseGuard has attracted strong market interest driven by its compelling advantages for scalable smart home and security systems.

Meanwhile from a module perspective, WiseEye technology is seeing expanding adoption across a wide range of domains, including leading brands' upcoming smart home appliances and various surveillance applications. Notably, our PalmVein module has had a strong design-in pipeline across multiple industries, covering smart access, workforce management, smart door locks, and more recently, computer monitor and automotive applications.

In the domain of AR and AI glasses, WiseEye delivers fast responsiveness for a wide range of AI functions while maintaining exceptional power efficiency. It enables intelligent, context-aware vision sensing in next-generation wearable and smart glasses through both outward- and inward-facing capabilities. Outward sensing supports environmental awareness, object recognition, and spatial mapping, while inward sensing enables iris authentication and tracks eye movement, gaze direction, and pupil dynamics for natural, intuitive human-machine interaction. WiseEye is

gaining strong traction in smart glasses, with a growing number of design-in engagements underway among global tech names, solution platform providers, and smart glasses specialists. A leading brand's smart glasses are poised to enter mass production later this year, marking an important milestone for WiseEye in the smart glasses market.

That concludes my report for this quarter. Thank you for your interest in Himax. We appreciate you joining today's call and are now ready to take questions.

Question-and-Answer Session

Operator

Ladies and gentlemen, we are now in question-and-answer session. You may press *1 on your keypad if you would like to ask a question. Thank you very much. And in addition to submitting questions via your phone, you may also submit your question through the webcast system. Thank you.

Tiffany Yeh – Morgan Stanley

Thank you, Jordan and Karen for taking my question, and congratulations on the strong results.

My first question is on the first quarter gross margin. May I know why the margin would be flat to down quarter-over-quarter in first quarter. Is it because of product mix or are we seeing elevated pressure coming from like the increasing material costs and also the OSAT costs? Thank you and I have a follow-up.

Jordan Wu - Himax Technologies, Inc. - Co-Founder, President & CEO

Thank you, Tiffany. Actually, we are only guiding for a flat to slight decline only, so we are not seeing material change from the gross margin of last quarter and the difference is really the product mix change. We are seeing proportion-wise slightly less auto shipment in Q1 compared to last quarter.

You point out about the material price increase which is obviously a factor and it has been a factor for like a pretty long time, as we all know, gold prices have been increasing over the years. And now, on top of that, we are seeing foundry capacity tightening and therefore, prices appear to be rising. And for that reason, I mean, with our foundry vendors, we are in discussion with them, how to get our delivery support while in the meantime hoping for a manageable price increase from them. At the same time, we are also in active discussions with our customers about the possibility for a price increase to reflect our cost. So, both are ongoing and we don't have any conclusion yet. But I think, so far, I mean, this is all pretty recent, and so far, we are seeing our customers all kind of recognize the fact that, as we all know, memory price, the memory demand and squeeze out the supply of other types of ICs and therefore demand appears to be rising for other kind of non memory IC products because of the price being squeezed and price is rising.

So again, we are in discussion with both our customer side and vendor side. But that is not really quite a factor for our Q1 gross margin guidance. If anything, I think that is going to becoming a factor starting from Q2 and onward. But thank you for your question.

Tiffany Yeh – Morgan Stanley

That is very clear, thank you. So my second question would be regarding CPO. Could you give us more details or maybe some guidance for the CPO revenue in maybe 2026 and 2027, as I think investors are very excited about our development and progress in this area. Thank you.

Jordan Wu - Himax Technologies, Inc. - Co-Founder, President & CEO

Thank you. Actually, we're also online getting a few questions surrounding CPOs. I'll try to kind of address them together.

Again, we said that in last quarter's earnings call, and I'm going to repeat that now. The main goal of 2026 for us and also for our partner FOCI is to complete the validation of both our Gen 1 and Gen 2 products, its validation by key customers/partners. So with the validation being the target, the revenue contribution will be limited for 2026, because we will be talking about sample shipments only.

Notably, while I'm commenting on 2027, in close collaboration with anchor customer and partner, again, FOCI and Himax are close to finalizing the Gen 2 product, which targets bandwidth of greater than 6.4T. Okay, this is important. Again, we are finalizing the Gen 2 product for its production readiness targeting bandwidth of greater than 6.4T. And for this product, Gen 2 product, we can potentially see meaningful top and bottom-line contribution starting from 2027, even before the official MP gets started. The reason why I emphasize this is because when and how this CPO product will start mass production is really a call which can only be made by the customer. We don't fully know. And also, a reminder that it actually involves complex and lengthy ecosystem run by our customer, right? So, it is not a matter of when we are proven to be ready, the customer can just click a button and then you know, full volume production, it's not going to happen that way. So we cannot, we don't have full visibility on exactly when and how the ramping, the mass production ramping will take place. Our current view is that it is likely to be 2027 or 2028, we don't know.

However, what I'm trying to say is even before the official ramping, official MP, let's say 2027 or 2028. Even before that, because prior to the official MP, there will be further sample shipments for various purposes with a certain quantity which will be greater than 2026. So even before the official MP gets started, just from pre-MP shipments, we, based on internal count, the contribution can be already pretty meaningful for Himax as a total, in terms of our total revenue, certainly, even more so for our total profit, right? So I guess that addresses your issue about 2027.

And again, I want to emphasize this product targeting 6.4T bandwidth spec is done in close collaboration with our anchor customer and partner. It is not like we are closing our doors and we try to think of a product and try to push it to the customer. No, it is actually from beginning to now, it has been a joint development by our direct customer, direct partner FOCI and our joint anchor customer and partner. And the so-called 6.4T transmission product spec, the target is the AI data center market with the biggest volume potential, while demanding the highest transmission bandwidth, meaning we are talking about the GPU market, right, which requires a very high transmission rate. So I guess that, Tiffany, that kind of addresses your question directly.

And also, people asked about what is the volume potential or revenue potential, when it starts MP. And for this, I will kind of repeat what I mentioned earlier in our earlier session. Even in what I call early stage of mass production, meaning we are far from reaching full penetration, full deployment, and so on and so forth. How exactly that is defined, I cannot say precisely. But in early-stage mass production, for Himax, we'll be

talking about hundreds of millions of sales. So it's going to be very, very significant, based on what the customer is telling us, based on how we price it and based on our internal calculation. And so, I'm still holding the same view now. And the good news is we do have existing WLO capacity to support and manage a pretty big volume production for that kind of scale, hundreds of millions of dollars of annual sales. Okay, so I guess that kind of summarizes my answer, you know, for all questions related to CPO right now. Thank you.

Operator

Thank you. If you would like to ask a question, you may press star key and number one on your telephone keypad. Thank you.

Jordan Wu - Himax Technologies, Inc. - Co-Founder, President & CEO

I do have a question from online inquiry. Our OLED sales, is it going to be huge in 2026, its price or price premium versus conventional panels?

Actually, for OLED, we have, in our prepared remarks, we said we started shipping in mass production volume for smartphones starting actually a bit of last quarter and certainly this quarter. But the sales contribution from the smartphone OLED for Himax right now is still low. And if you combine the smartphone OLED for Himax, together with IT and automotive OLED together, our expected sales contribution for 2026 is still less than 10% of our total sales. So I would say probably high single digits of contribution, 2026. The ramping, the real ramping is going to be in 2027. I will explain why 2027 and why it's different from 2026 in a minute.

To get back to your question about margin. For Himax, the OLED product's gross margin for smartphone, it is actually lower than our company average. So to be honest, we are not very, very keen, I mean, we recognize the fact that our peers are already ahead of us and probably shipping bigger volume than us. So it is already a very competitive market with low margins across the board. So that is for smartphone. However, I would say something very different for automotive OLED and IT OLED. These two areas are our focus area right now, and they both enjoy much better gross margin compared to our traditional LCD products. And also, on a per panel basis, the IC content are materially higher, again, than LCD products. So, I would probably describe our status separately for auto and IT.

First on auto, we are in strategic partnership with top tier Korean and Chinese panel makers, and this is the market which is now being led by Korean panel makers, and we are the prime IC partners for both Korean panel makers. And I say we expect to see breakout demand from 2027, mainly because it is actually not the Korean makers leading the charge in terms of aggressively promoting the OLED market, which up to now has been volume-wise, has suffered from two main factors, one is cost and the other one is reliability. And through many years of effort across the ecosystem, the reliability has been kind of resolved. So it's an issue of yesterday, no longer an issue. So the real issue is now cost. But Korean makers, they have a lot of legacy OLED capacity, which can only do rigid displays. So they are taking advantage of those capacities, which are fully depreciated, running with very good efficiency and so on and so forth to price their products aggressively, to the extent that the OLED prices for automotive products in certain space are already approaching the levels of LCD products already. And certainly, OLED enjoys better quality and lighter weight and so on, a few very good benefits. So when you start to see prices approaching those of LCD, it becomes very appealing. So we are in the middle of very, very busy design-in activities with our panel makers and Tier 1's at the moment. So with a lot of design in, design-win projects going on, and many of which are slated for mass production in 2027. So this year, while we do ship some volume, I think hopefully 2027 volume will be much, much bigger than this year.

And for this, we offer our standard products, including driver IC and timing controller and ASIC products for both leading panel customers, again, for both Tcon timing controller and driver IC. And on top of that, we also offer discrete touch IC, which we are now leading the pack. We outcompete in technology, in performance, compared to their old vendors. So we are winning a lot of new design-in projects for our large panel controller with mass production already taking place with a few leading international and Chinese names. So that is for automotive.

And for IT, slightly different story, but very similar timing, 2027 is likely to break out a year. Now, for IT, you need large panel size, larger panel size. So, you do require Gen 8.5 or 8.6 to be mass producing IT products effectively. Korean panel makers have led the charge. Back couple of years ago, they have completed their 8.5 Gen production line. But the Chinese are catching up, so, across the board, quite a few Chinese panel makers are starting mass production for their Gen 8.6 OLED line, all targeting IT products, mainly tablet and notebook. And likewise, we are going through very, very busy design-in stage with a few such customers. So the story here is when you have new Gen 8.6 OLED line coming into production, joining production in the same time,

2027, it is likely to be price pressure, and that certainly for market demand for notebook makers is good news.

Again, OLED panel enjoys lighter weight, better contrast and better brightness and good power consumption and all these benefits, as we all know, right. So, the major issue stopping OLED panel from high penetration is cost. And the fact that quite a few Chinese Gen 8.6 are coming online starting 2027. I think it's likely to bring down the cost substantially and trigger the demand. So again, we are going through a design-in stage right now.

Operator

Okay then thank you for all your questions. I think that will be the end of the Q&A session. And I'll pass the call back to Mr. Jordan Wu. Thank you.

Jordan Wu - Himax Technologies, Inc. - Co-Founder, President & CEO

Thank you, operator. As a final note, Karen Tiao, our Head of IR/PR will maintain investor marketing activities and continue to attend investors conferences. We will announce the details as they come about. Thank you and have a nice day.