



INNOVATIVE MASS STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES

IMST WHITE BOOK

December 2007

Mass data storage, memories for the future everyday life A road map for the European R&D

The Specific Support Action **WIND**, funded by the **European Union** within the the 6th research framework programme (FP6), supports the edition of the IMST White Book.

Acknowledgements

The contributors to this White Book are all currently active researchers, engineers or academics working in the area of mass data storage technologies in industry, universities or research centres within the European Union. Particular thanks for the preparation of this 2007 edition are due to Prof Claude Chappert of the University de Paris Sud, Drs Luc Haspelagh and Dirk Woutters of IMEC, Prof Dr Matthias Wuttig from RWTH_Aachen, Prof David Wright from the University of Exeter, Dr Yves Samson from CEA-Grenoble. We are particularly grateful once again for invaluable contributions from Drs Livio Baldi and Roberto Bez (ST Microelectronics / Milano, Italy) and Dr Doris Keitel-Schulz (Infineon / Munich, Germany).

Until 2006, the White Book was produced under the auspices of the scientific committee of the Innovative Mass Storage Technologies Conference (IMST). Created in 2000 by European scientists and industrialists, this International Conference provides a unique opportunity to cover the latest advancements of research and to observe the latest trends in the areas of solid state, optical, magnetic and emerging technologies for data storage - see http://www.imst.org

Since 2007, the elaboration of the IMST White Book has been supported by the European Union FP6 programme as being one of the actions implemented within the Specific Support Action WIND: Wide INtegrated technology Dissemination - see http://www.wind-fp6.org.

2007 IMST White Book

Partners from the SSA WIND having contributed to the 2007 IMST White Book are:

Bernard BECHEVET (CEA - Leti / Grenoble, France) WIND coordinator

Yves SAMSON (CEA - DSM / Grenoble, France)

White Book coordination

David WRIGHT (Exeter University / Exeter, United Kingdom) Emerging technologies

Claude CHAPPERT (CNRS- Université de Paris Sud, IEF / Orsay, France) Magnetic memories

> Matthias WUTTIG (RWTH Aachen / Aachen, Germany) Optical Memories

Luc HASPELAGH and Dirk WOUTTERS (IMEC / Heverlee, Belgium) Solid state memories

Other contributors to the 2007 IMST White Book

Livio BALDI, Roberto BEZ (ST Microelectronics / Milano, Italy)

Doris KEITEL-SCHULZ (Infineon / Munich, Germany)

Solid state memories

Though the authors share the opinions and analysis expressed in this book, its content cannot be seen as being an official position from their respective institutions or companies.

Dr Bernard Bechevet retired in June 2007. He is the co-founder of the cycle of IMST conferences and of the IMST White Book initiative. His energy and commitment at the workplaces and conferences will be deeply missed by his colleagues at CEA-LETI and indeed by all of the European data storage research community.

Contents

Section 1 first underlines the key role of Mass Data Storage in the Information and Communication Society and the proposed actions to strengthen the European position. Section 2 offers an overview of the impact of Mass Data Storage on industry, economy and citizen life, and displays some of the most exciting opportunities opened in the near future. Section 3 provides a thorough review of the technical trends, of the economic activity (with an incentive on the European position), in the four areas covered by the White Book: Solid State Memories, Optical Memories, Magnetic Memories and Emerging Technologies for Memories. In each case, the state of the European research is reviewed, and the authors underline what they consider the best actions to take to maintain and develop a strong EU based research and industry. Section 4 is brief, but dedicated to a real challenge: how we will be able to transmit to the future the huge amount of data we create, using technologies that are so rapidly evolving. Finally Section 5 gathers the views presented in each technical chapter to ensure the development and exploitation of appropriate R&D in Mass Data Storage Technologies in Europe. A short appendix list some current and past EU FP5 and FP6 funded research projects in the area of data storage and memory technologies.

1	1 Summary					
2	Mass	data storage technologies in IST: challenges and opportunities, the European position	9			
2.	2.1 Information and Communication Technologies today: an area of opportunities, a major source					
of	econo	mic growth	9			
2.	2 Mas	ss Storage Technologies	13			
	2.2.1	Data storage everywhere - A deep impact on citizen life and work	13			
	2.2.2	The memory always a strategic part – research on generic technologies	14			
	2.2.3	Dreaming of the future: new applications	15			
	2.2.4	The markets - the European position and industry	17			
	2.2.5	The IMST conferences and the White Book	23			
3	3 Overview of the main technologies for mass data storage: technical challenges, market trends					
European position						
3.	3.1 Solid state memories					
	3.1.1	Needs and relevance	25			
	3.1.2	Memory Technology	26			
	3.1.3	Status of the Market	34			
	3.1.4	The role of Europe	37			

	3.1.5	Opportunities for Research			
3.	3.2 Optical memories				
	3.2.1	Optical discs today	43		
	3.2.2	Three generations optical storage	46		
	3.2.3	Improvements of CD, DVD and BD	47		
	3.2.4	Next generations	48		
3.3 Magnetic Memories					
	3.3.1	- The on-going evolution of Magnetic storage in a fast changing context	67		
	3.3.2	- Mainstream magnetic storage technologies	72		
	3.3.3	Emerging magnetic recording technology: magnetic random access memory	93		
3.	4 Eme	erging technologies for mass data storage	100		
	3.4.1	Introduction - Are new technologies necessary?			
	3.4.2	Scanning probe-based storage			
	3.4.3	Nanoscale thermal memories	118		
	3.4.4	Biologically-inspired data storage	119		
	3.4.5	Spintronics : mixing spin and semiconductors	121		
	3.4.6	The role of Europe in Emerging Technologies	121		
4	Preserv	vation of Cultural Heritage	124		
5	Recom	nmendations to strengthen the European position	126		
6	Appendix: Main European Projects on Mass Data Storage Technologies				



Image taken from the IMST Conference graphic files