

SRAM market flat in Q2 and full year, says Semico

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LONDON — The SRAM market in the second quarter rose approximately 6 percent in unit shipments and one percent in revenues from the first quarter, according to Semico Research Corp. The market has been buoyed by PSRAM and strong demand from the cell phone market, the market research company said.

“The remaining half of the year is expected to be relatively flat, so our forecast is still on target for 1.2 billion unit shipments for the year, \$2.7 billion in revenues, and an aggregate ASP down \$0.21 from last year,” said Adrienne Downey, senior analyst at Semico (Phoenix, Ariz.), in a statement. “With densities up to 128-Mbit, PSRAM is replacing low-power 6T asynchronous SRAM, which only goes up to 16-Mbit at this time,” said Downey.

The PSRAM has a one-transistor DRAM cell — as opposed to the typical six-transistor SRAM cell or the four-transistor and two-load resistor SRAM cell — but with an SRAM-like static interface. The internal DRAM architecture gives PSRAM some strong advantages over low-power 6T SRAM, namely smaller size and competitive pricing, Semico said. Manufacturers that account for 90 percent of the total SRAM market now make PSRAM devices.

The leading SRAM/PSRAM vendors for 2003 and 2004 were Samsung, Cypress, Renesas, Micron, and Toshiba, Semico said.