

Spot prices for high-density NAND flash chips rise sharply in September

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TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Higher density NAND flash memory spot market prices soared up to 38% in the last month, according to the latest DRAMeXchange survey.

The Taiwan-based market research and trader reported that spot prices for 2-Gbit NAND parts today were \$23.15, up 38% from the first of September. The 1-Gbit NAND chips were selling at \$10.60, up 24% in the same period.

Lower density NAND flash had more modest prices increases, with 512-Mbit chips up 4% to \$4.80 from a month ago and 256-Mbit NAND up 3% to \$4.84 in the spot market, said DRAMeXchange.

Jim Handy, nonvolatile memory analyst for Semico Research Corp., Phoenix, believes the sharp spot price jump in higher density NAND is a temporary phenomenon resulting from a change in the production mix of chip densities by memory makers.

After previous large price drops in 1- and 2-Gbit NAND chips over many months, manufacturers sent through more wafers at lower densities, where prices were more stable. Handy said too much NAND capacity still exists in the market, and the higher density parts could peak and start coming down in the near future.

About Semico

Semico Research Corp is a marketing and engineering research company located in Phoenix, Arizona. Semico was founded in 1994 by a group of semiconductor industry veterans who believed that the validity of semiconductor product forecasts could be greatly improved if the forecasts were based on semiconductor consumption in end-use markets. Semico forecasts, today, are based on that idea. Web: www.semico.com