

2014 年 12 月 10 日

●ロブ・チャンドホック氏、ヘリウム・システムズ社長兼COOに就任

【Wall Street Journal Blog, 2014/12/10】

クアルコム経営幹部の中でも目立った存在だったロブ・チャンドホック氏は最近同社を退社。その去就が注目されていたが、この度、インターネット・オブ・シングス分野の新興企業であるヘリウム・システムズの社長兼 COO に就任することが明らかとなった。

同社は 10 日には投資ラウンドでコースラ・ベンチャーズなどから 1600 万ドル近くを調達したことを正式に発表する予定。

同社はこれまでのところ具体的な戦略等については多くを明らかにしていないが、創設者にナップスターを立ち上げたショーン・ファニング氏や MIT メディアラボ所長の伊藤穰一氏等が名を連ねていることから関心を集めている。

チャンドホック氏は他社のスマートデバイスが Wi-Fi や Bluetooth を使ってネットワークに接続するのに対して、ヘリウムは 802.15.4 の独自バージョンを開発しており、センサ等から送られてくるデータを管理する機能などを備えたインターネット・オブ・シングスのプラットフォームを作成するソフトも開発しているとその独創性を強調している。

(参考) 本件報道記事

Departed Qualcomm Exec Lands at Helium Systems

By Don Clark

December 10, 2014, 12:01 AM ET

Rob Chandhok, one of Qualcomm's most visible executives, promised to explain his next move when he recently resigned from the chip giant. Mystery now solved: he's joining Helium Systems, a San Francisco startup with big plans in the Internet of Things.

The software specialist, who was involved in some of Qualcomm's high-profile technology development efforts, will become Helium's president and chief operating officer, reporting to CEO Amir Haleem.

Helium on Wednesday is also formally announcing a funding round that came to light in a public filing this fall—an infusion of nearly \$16 million led by Khosla

Ventures, with participation from additional investors that include Marc Benioff, CEO of Salesforce.com.

The company hasn't said a lot so far. But it has attracted attention because of the resumes of its founders, who include Napster founder Shawn Fanning and Joi Ito, director of the Media Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Many large and small tech companies are chasing the Internet of Things, a catchall term for adding communications and computing power to devices ranging from light bulbs to oil drilling gear. Many of the smart devices are expected to communicate using familiar wireless technologies like cellular, Wi-Fi or a low-energy version of Bluetooth.

Helium, by contrast, has created its own version of a communications standard called 802.15.4 that has been used for other communications schemes like ZigBee, Chandhok said. The company's website shows small communications modules and coordinating "bridge" devices that it says can communicate with as many as 10,000 devices, while lasting far longer on a battery charge than alternative technologies.

But Helium's efforts are not limited to wireless technology. It has developed software to create a platform for the Internet of Things, Chandhok says, including ways to manage the data generated from sensors on many kinds of devices.

The company's efforts also extend beyond the home to many kinds of corporate applications, where other companies are limiting themselves to narrow niches.

"We think we are going to be an enabler for an explosion of business around things and sensor data," Chandhok says.

Source:

<http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2014/12/10/departed-qualcomm-exec-lands-at-helium-systems/>

以 上