

Class D Audio Amplifier ICs drowning out Class AB

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07 April 2008 Â The world market for Class D audio amplifier ICs continues to go from strength to strength. Shipment volumes are forecast to increase three-fold from 2006 to 2011; indeed, they were estimated to overtake Class AB amplifier volumes in 2007.

This is just one of the key findings in the latest report â€œThe World Markets for Class AB and D Monolithic Power Amplifiers â€” 2008 Editionâ€” recently published by IMS Research.

â€œClass D amplifier volumes continue to see strong growth in most marketsâ€” said Peter Cooney, senior analyst for this report. â€œBy 2011, Class D amplifiers are forecast to account for over two thirds of total market revenues with Class AB amplifier revenues falling steadily till then.â€”

Class D amplifiers are now being used in most applications requiring audio output; the strongest market growth is forecast in cell phones, laptops, active speakers and in automotive applications. The top five suppliers in this market - Texas Instruments, STMicroelectronics, NXP Semiconductors, Maxim Integrated products and National Semiconductor - are all estimated to have enjoyed large increases recently in sales of Class D products. This is forecast to continue.

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