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ITRI's Journal of Industrial Technology and Information (trans. temp., issue 204), udn.com & Now News (2009/09/15) The paper-thin loudspeaker developed by Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), Taiwan, is constituted of plenty micro-loudspeakers, and, with its paper-thin body, light weight and low power consumption, is considered as innovatingly valuable. Now the product has won "The Wall Street Journal 2009 Technology Innovation Awards" in the consumer electronics category.

Photo / provided by ITRI, cited from udn.com

The super-thin stereo speaker is actually worthy of the title "paper loudspeaker," for it could be made from paper or plastic film. The product is just 0.1 cm thick, just like paper, and it is as flexible as paper, too. In the future, it may be applied to mobile 3C products, or used as wallpaper on the wall. ITRI has submitted applications for 46 patents worldwide. According to ITRI Electronics and Optoelectronics Research Laboratories Director Yi-Jen CHAN, "the paper-thin flexible loudspeaker fleXpeaker" belongs to the technology program of Department of Technology, Ministry of Economic Affairs. It can be produced by "printing" and hence is pretty technologically revolutionary. The key part of the technology is one special insulation film, on and underneath which two pieces of electrode paper or film wrap. When signal is put in, the film will accordingly vibrate and make sounds. The quality of the sound made is no less than the traditional speaker's and its power consumption only takes one tenth of that of traditional speaker.

The Wall Street Journal announced on 14th-September the list of its 2009 Innovation Awards. ITRI's paper-thin loudspeaker outpaced over five hundred competitors including international groups such as HP, Motorola etc.

Further Information:

ITRI's Journal of Industrial Technology and Information (trans. temp.) Issue 204 (Chinese)
Udn.com 2009/09/15 (Chinese)
Now News 2009/09/15 (Chinese)
Taiwan Today 2009/09/15

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