

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**Advanced Micro's Loss Narrows; Chip Maker Gains Ground With Videogame Players And Asian PC Assemblers**

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Abstract (Article Summary)

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Significantly, AMD's results come before it begins to get meaningful sales from a new line of server and desktop chips, called Opteron and Athlon 64, respectively. When sales of those products kick in, AMD's sales could rise even further next year, Mr. Whittington said.

Full Text (372 words)

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Advanced Micro Devices Inc. sharply reduced its loss in the third quarter as revenue jumped 88%, driven by demand for both its microprocessor chips and data-storage products known as flash memory.

The Sunnyvale, Calif., company reported a net loss of \$31 million, or nine cents a share, compared with a loss in the year-earlier period of \$254.2 million, or 74 cents a share. Sales rose to \$953.8 million from \$508.2 million. AMD's latest figures were far better than analysts' consensus, which called for a loss of 36 cents a share on revenue of \$859 million, according to Thomson First Call.

AMD has been struggling for most of the year, as Intel Corp. grabbed more of the market for microprocessors used in personal computers. But AMD said revenue from its microprocessor unit surged 91% over the year-earlier period, compared with a 26% jump in Intel's microprocessor business reported Tuesday.

The smaller company, while struggling for a foothold in the brand-name PCs bought by corporations, sells inexpensive chips that are popular among PC game enthusiasts and small assemblers in Asia, sometimes known as white-box manufacturers. Rick Whittington, an analyst at American Technology Research, attributed AMD's upside surprise to demand from those customers as well as a shortfall in Intel's manufacturing capacity.

"Intel can't satisfy market demand," said Mr. Whittington, who called AMD's numbers "terrific."

Significantly, AMD's results come before it begins to get meaningful sales from a new line of server and desktop chips, called Opteron and Athlon 64, respectively. When sales of those products kick in, AMD's sales could rise

even further next year, Mr. Whittington said.

AMD also said revenue doubled from sales of flash-memory chips, which are used to store data in products such as cellular phones. Much of the growth came from consolidating results from a joint venture that AMD has operated with Fujitsu Ltd. But the results still contrast sharply with those of Intel, which reported a 23% decline in revenue for the unit that includes its flash-chip business.

AMD reported results after 4 p.m., when its stock closed at \$14.01, up 35 cents in New York Stock Exchange composite trading. In after- hours trading following the news, the stock rose to \$15.10, according to Island ECN.

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