

A Safe Software Convergence:

How Automotive and Industrial Designs are Eliminating Boundaries and Creating Opportunities

Edward Wilford

Senior Research Director, Automotive



Automotive as a sandbox

For decades, automotive has been seen as a separate ecosystem

- Long development cycles
- Unique requirements (including safety)
- Complex tier system
- Extremely resistant to change
- Closest analogue is industrial

Automotive Semiconductors

- ISO 26262 safety compliance
- Temperature range: -40°C to 125°C
- 10-15 year product lifecycles

Industrial Semiconductors

- Focus on rugged reliability
- Diverse application support
- Shorter development cycles



The SDV revolution

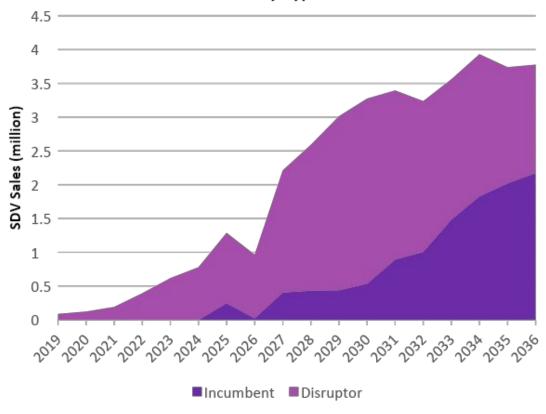
Explosive Market Growth

 Omdia expects OEM software and digital investments to triple by 2035

Industry Transformation

- 75% of industry leaders expect software-defined experiences to be core to automotive brand value by 2035
- Shift from traditional hardware-dependent models to flexible software platforms
- Growing emphasis on predictive maintenance and Al-powered diagnostics

Sales SDVs Based on Centralized-Domain E/E Architecture by Type of OEM





The SDV revolution, in practical terms

Between 30-150 ECUs in distributed architecture

Modern consolidated E/E architectures, such as centralized domain and zonal architectures, offer several key benefits:

Integration of high-performance computing within consolidated ECUs.

Decoupling of hardware and software for greater flexibility and scalability. Use of advanced technologies, such as Ethernet, for fast communication between ECUs and vehicle sensors.

Seamless connection of vehicle systems and sensors to the cloud, enabling frequent and reliable over-the-air (OTA) updates.

Sophisticated, interconnected vehicle features that use cross-domain and cloud data. Reduction in the number of physical components, such as cable harnesses, which decreases vehicle weight—a critical factor for improving the range of electric vehicles.

Simplification of physical architecture results in easier manufacturing processes, enhanced update capabilities, and potentially lower overall costs.



Architectures in common

The spread of software-defined architectures

Traditional Approach

• Fixed function hardware, Limited updates, Separate development

Modern Architecture

Programmable SoCs, Containerized apps, Unified frameworks

Real-time Processing

Sub-ms response times, Deterministic behavior

Safety Standards

- ISO 26262 (Automotive)
- IEC 61508 (Industrial)



Shared drivers, shared solutions

- Separate design cycles no longer make sense.
 - If it's fast, safe, and secure enough for automotive...
 - Lower barriers to entry for automotive, more resemblance to 'traditional' compute
 - Tangent—is compute of all types converging?
 - Solves (some) supply chain issues, volume issues, potentially opens up software ecosystem
 - Adds flexibility to industrial automation



RISC-V will be found where there is agile compute

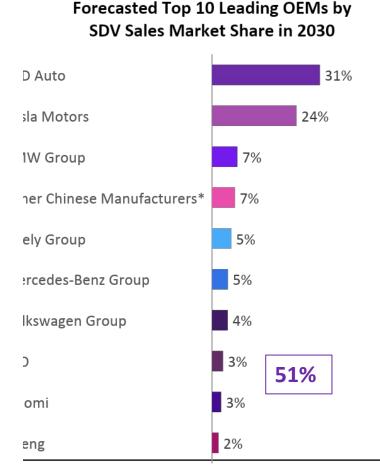
RISC-V is strongest in the most significant areas of both intelligent automotive and industrial

- Safe, secure, scalable
- Development time
- Independence
- Right-sizing intelligence

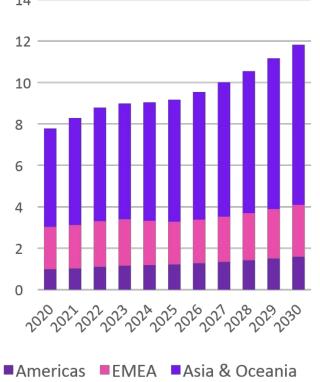


Opportunities in regional development cycles

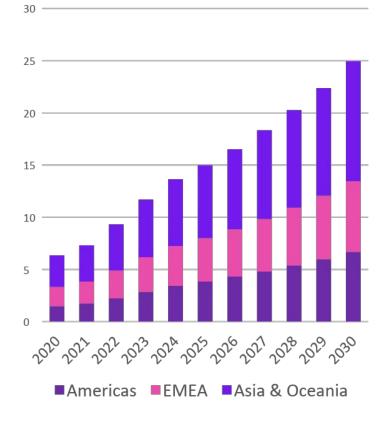
China predicted to be the locus of SDV, RISC-V, industrial automation...





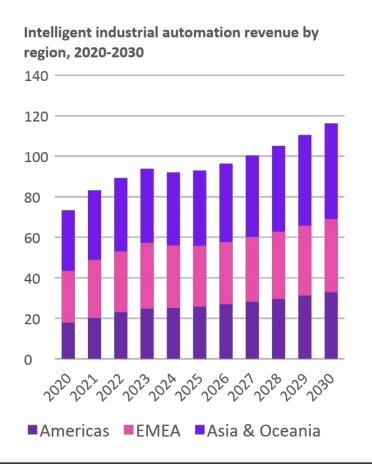


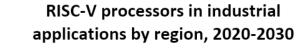
RISC-V processors in industrial applications by region, 2020-2030

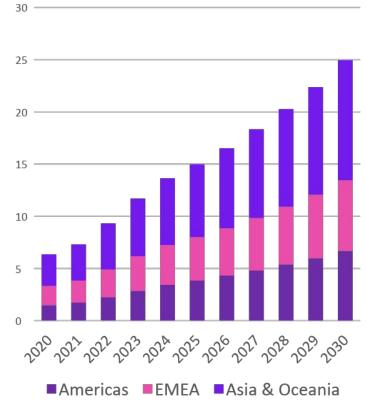


Opportunities in regional development cycles (a second look)

...but the biggest opportunity may be in Europe









Thank You!

14/05/25







