CORPORATE PARTICIPANTS

Arthur D. Chadwick SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO
Beth Howe
Rajesh Vashist SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

CONFERENCE CALL PARTICIPANTS

Christopher Caso Wolfe Research, LLC - MD
Doug O'Laughlin
Nathaniel Quinn Bolton Needham & Company, LLC, Research Division - Senior Analyst
Suji Desilva ROTH MKM Partners, LLC, Research Division - MD & Senior Research Analyst
Tore Egil Svanberg Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, Research Division - MD
Brett Perry Shelton Group - VP

PRESENTATION

Operator

Good afternoon, and welcome to SiTime’s Third Quarter 2023 Financial Results Conference Call. (Operator Instructions) As a reminder, this conference call is being recorded today, Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

I would now like to turn the call over to Brett Perry with Shelton Group Investor Relations. Brett, please go ahead.

Brett Perry - Shelton Group - VP

Thank you. Good afternoon, and welcome to SiTime’s Third Quarter 2023 Financial Results Conference Call. Joining us on today’s call from SiTime are Rajesh Vashist, Chief Executive Officer; and Art Chadwick, Chief Financial Officer.

Before we begin, I’d like to point out that during the course of this call, the company may make forward-looking statements regarding expected future results, including financial position, strategy and plans, future operations, the timing market and other areas of discussion. It’s not possible for the company’s management to predict all risks nor can the company assess the impact of all factors on its business or the extent to which any factor or combination of factors may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events discussed during this call may not occur, and actual results could differ materially and adversely from those anticipated or implied. Neither the company nor any person assumes responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of forward-looking statements.

The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update forward-looking statements for any reason after the date of this call to conform statements to actual results or to changes in the company’s expectations. For more detailed information on risks associated with the business, we refer you to the risk factors described in the 10-K filed on February 27, 2023, as well as the company’s subsequent filings with the SEC.

Also during the call, we’ll refer to certain non-GAAP financial measures, which are considered to be an important measure of company performance. These non-GAAP financial measures are provided in addition to and not as a substitute for or superior to measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The only difference between reported GAAP and non-GAAP results is stock-based compensation expense. Please refer to the company’s press release issued today for a detailed reconciliation between GAAP and non-GAAP financial results.
With that, it's now my pleasure to turn the call over to SiTime's CEO. Rajesh, please go ahead.

Rajesh Vashist - SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

Thank you. Good afternoon. I'd like to welcome you as well as existing investors to SiTime's Q3 2023 earnings call. For those of you that are not as familiar with SiTime, we are the leader in a dynamic new semiconductor category called precision timing. In electronics, timing is ubiquitous and ensures reliable functioning. SiTime created precision timing to serve the needs of applications like automated driving, datacenter, 5G and AI. We're early in our growth as we transform the $10 billion timing market. SiTime has shipped 3 billion precision timing chips to 15,000 customers in 300 applications.

Q3 2023 was in line with our guidance. Revenue for the quarter was $35.5 million. Non-GAAP gross margins were 58.2%. Non-GAAP EPS was $0.06 per share versus a loss of $0.21 in Q2 2023. As we forecasted, we continue to see a reduction of inventory in Q3 and an uptick in end demand, particularly in the Mobile-IoT-Consumer segment. We expect these trends to continue in Q4, leading to 15% to 20% sequentially higher revenue over Q3.

In addition, the long-term strength of our business continues as we have envisioned. This is through the introduction of new exceptional products, leading to SAM expansion, solid ASPs, increased design wins and continued strength in our single-source business. In the second half of '23, all 4 factors continue to remain on track, and I will touch on these now in more detail.

We continue to expand our SAM with high-value products like Epoch for the Communications and Datacenter markets. Epoch is a revolutionary product that beats legacy quartz OCXOs on all key 9 specifications that customers need. Our customers are excited about this product, and we've built a robust funnel of opportunities.

Our ASPs are holding steady from 2022 to '23 despite lower revenues, which is an indication of the value that we bring to our customers. Our funnel continues to show robust growth. Our cumulative design wins to date in '23 have grown 75% over the same period in 2022. And lastly, in the multi-sourced oscillator business, 85% of our Q3 revenue was single-sourced, which is an indication of the unique value of SiTime.

Since our IPO in 2019, our singular focus has been on expanding SAM in the oscillator category along with revenue growth. In the past 4 years, we've grown from 60 to 150 unique oscillators, and the price of the highest-value oscillator has grown tenfold. This strategy makes us the leader in the oscillator space and a trusted adviser to customers in our focus markets, unlike our competitors.

We're now applying the same focus to the clock category of the timing market with exciting results. We are acquiring clock products from Aura Semiconductor. This leverages our strong balance sheet to accelerate our clocking revenue and road map by several years. Additionally, we expect to increase our oscillator revenue due to pull-throughs when they are sold with complementary clocks.

This proven portfolio of high-performance products includes all the 4 major categories of clocks — Network Synchronizers, Jitter Cleaners, Clock Generators and Buffers. In fact, our Cascade clock, which was introduced in 2020, includes some Aura clock technology, and we already have 150 designs at 100 customers.

With this acquisition, SiTime immediately adds 20 best-in-class clocks now and another 20 by the end of 2024. Additionally, by combining our MEMS and oscillators with these clocks, we believe that a whole new category of precision timing products will be created for our core markets of Comms, Datacenter and AI. This continues SiTime's trajectory of building unique timing products that brings us closer to the customer and enhances our Trusted Adviser status at the top electronics companies. I'm deeply satisfied and convinced that this acquisition significantly advances our vision.

I'd also like to give an update on changes to our management team. After 4 years at SiTime, Art Chadwick, our CFO, has decided to retire. Art's guidance has played a strong role in SiTime’s achievements. He's been a tremendous partner and a key strategic adviser to SiTime's investors and our business partners. We thank Art wholeheartedly for his contributions and impact on our business.
I'm very excited to appoint a new member to SiTime's executive team. Beth Howe is joining SiTime as our CFO on November 8. She comes to SiTime with proven financial leadership and deep experience driving performance in scaled multinational organizations. Her wealth of experience will be invaluable as we continue to build market momentum and drive SiTime's future growth and success.

In conclusion, these are exciting changes to the company that advance our vision and take us to further success. Thank you.

Arthur D. Chadwick  
SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Well, thanks, Rajesh, and good afternoon, everyone. Today, I'll discuss third quarter 2023 results and then provide some guidance for the fourth quarter. I'll focus my discussion on non-GAAP financial results and refer you to today's press release for a detailed description of our GAAP results as well as a reconciliation of GAAP to non-GAAP results.

Revenue in the third quarter was $35.5 million, up 28% from Q2.

Sales into our Mobile, IoT, and Consumer segment were $17.9 million or 50% of sales, up from $10.4 million in Q2, due primarily to higher sales to our largest customer. Sales to that customer were $13.2 million, up from $4.6 million in Q2. Excluding sales to our largest customer, sales into this segment were $4.7 million or 13% of sales.

Sales into our Industrial, Automotive and Aerospace segment were $11.7 million or 33% of sales, down just slightly from $12.4 million in Q2.

Sales into our Communications & Enterprise segment were $5.9 million or 17% of sales, up from $4.9 million in Q2.

Non-GAAP gross margins were 58.2%, essentially flat with margins in Q2. Non-GAAP operating expenses were $26.3 million, down about 4% from Q2 as we continue to closely manage expenses. Expenses were $15.8 million in R&D and $10.5 million in SG&A.

The third quarter non-GAAP operating loss was $5.6 million, substantially better than the $11.2 million loss last quarter. Interest and other income was $7.1 million, up from $6.5 million in Q2 due to higher earned interest on our T-bill investments. Third quarter non-GAAP net income was $1.4 million or $0.06 per share compared to a loss of $4.8 million last quarter.

Accounts receivables were $25.2 million with DSOs of 65 days as compared to $15.8 million and DSOs of 51 days in Q2. Inventory at the end of the quarter was $64.5 million, essentially flat with last quarter.

During the quarter, we consumed $11.6 million in cash from operations, invested $3 million in capital purchases and ended the quarter with $568.1 million in cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments.

I'd now like to provide some financial guidance for the fourth quarter of 2023. There is still more inventory in the channel than normal, but it is being worked down. For some customers, including our largest customer, channel inventory is back to normal. But for other customers, it will take them until the end of this year or into 2024 to get back to more normalized levels.

As Rajesh mentioned, we are seeing an uptick in end demand, and we now expect fourth quarter sales will be up 15% to 20% sequentially. Whereas growth from Q2 to Q3 was essentially driven by increased sales to our largest customer, growth from Q3 to Q4 will be driven by customers other than our largest customer, especially in the Comms and Enterprise, Industrial and Aero markets.

We expect non-GAAP gross margins will be essentially flat with Q3 as will operating expenses. Interest income will be approximately $6.5 million. Our share count will be approximately 22.5 million shares. As a result, we expect non-GAAP EPS will be somewhere between $0.18 and $0.22 per share.

I'd now like to make a few comments about our deal with Aura Semiconductor. This is a very exciting and strategic deal for SiTime. It's an all-cash transaction comprised of fixed payments totaling $148 million, $36 million of which will be paid at close, an expected $75 million will be paid in
2024, and an expected $37 million will be paid in 2025, all tied to product deliveries from Aura. The earn-out payments will be based on various multiples of revenue generated from the acquired products from 2023 through 2028, with a total cumulative earn-out capped at $120 million.

This deal will clearly accelerate our clocking business, but it will take time to grow revenue. We must first win design sockets with our customers, and then it takes time for those designs to go into production. We, therefore, do not expect any material revenue or non-GAAP operating income in 2024. However, revenue and operating income should increase in 2025 and beyond, growing to $100 million business in a number of years.

I would also like to note that from a reporting standpoint, we plan to exclude amortization of these acquired intangible assets and licenses when we report future non-GAAP results.

Now on a personal note, today, we announced that I have decided to step down as CFO and retire. I have had an amazing 4 years here at SiTime, helping take the company public, raising capital and being part of this amazing management team. But my wife and I are now empty nesters, and we really want to spend more time on activities outside of work. So I decided it’s about time to pass the baton.

I want to thank Rajesh and everyone here at SiTime for being so great to work with. And I want to extend a special thanks to Samsheer Ahmad, our VP of Finance, and our entire finance and accounting team who do amazing work and who made my job easy.

Finally, I’d also like to welcome Beth as our new CFO. I think she’s going to do great, and I think the company is going to do great.

And on that note, I’d like to hand the call back to the operator for Q&A.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Operator

(Operator Instructions) Our first question comes from the line of Tore Svanberg of Stifel.

Tore Egil Svanberg - Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, Research Division - MD

Yes. Congratulations on the continuous recovery here. And Art, I wish you all the best in your retirement. And Beth, welcome to the platform.

My first question is on the growth that you are expecting for Q4. You talked about growth in your -- in the business that's not related to your largest customer. I was hoping you could add a little bit more color there. What are some of the subsegments that are expected to grow? And what are some of the subsegments that are perhaps still plagued by inventories as we exit the year?

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Sure. No, great question. As I mentioned in my commentary, there’s a few subsegments that I did call out, and we’re going to see relatively substantial growth quarter-to-quarter. One is comms and enterprise. That I expect will increase somewhere around 50%, 5-0 percent sequentially from Q3 to Q4. We're seeing strength in industrial that will also increase from Q3 to Q4, and we're seeing a lot of strength in aerospace and defense, and we are projecting some very significant sequential revenue increase from Q3 to Q4 in that segment.

For consumer, excluding our largest customer, that is going to be flattish quarter-to-quarter. And I think that kind of summarizes it.
Tore Egil Svanberg - Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, Research Division - MD

Yes, that’s great color. And a question for Rajesh. Rajesh, with the Aura technology and sort of accelerating penetration into the clocking market, I know there’s not going to be much of a financial impact in ’24, but you did mention that these are higher-margin businesses. So how does this change the financial profile for the company longer term, both from a sort of 30% growth perspective but then also for gross margins over time?

Rajesh Vashist - SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

Yes. On the gross margins, clearly, these are high-end gross margins. As I’ve said before, clocking has a few distinctive traits. Clocking products are relatively middle-of-the-road ASPs. The ASPs are anywhere from $4 to $10, but the gross margins are typically around the 70% range, particularly for the markets in comms, enterprise, AI that we are going for.

On having a material impact on our growth, I don’t think this -- I think it’s only positive to the extent we get the design wins. So the sooner we get the design wins and start selling them along our oscillators, the sooner we get the growth. But in general, we'll maintain our 30% annual growth rate for the long-term business that we’ve always talked about. This can only help that.

Operator

Our next question comes from the line of Quinn Bolton of Needham & Company.

Nathaniel Quinn Bolton - Needham & Company, LLC, Research Division - Senior Analyst

Art, just want to say best wishes to you and your wife in your retirement. It’s been great working with you, not only for the last 4 years, but also at Cavium. So just really enjoyed the time. And Beth, welcome.

I guess my first question, just following up on Aura Semiconductor. It sounds like it’s just a product line sort of acquisition without any substantial OpEx or R&D that comes to the company. And so I guess 2 questions. One, can you confirm that? Two, will Aura continue to be a separate entity that continues to generate these clock products for you? Or at some point, will you have to take over R&D for some of these future generations or derivatives of these clock products?

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Yes. So Quinn, on the expense side, we are going to hire a few of their folks in India and a few other locations, but it’s not significant OpEx. So whatever revenue and gross margins we do drive, that will cover the OpEx. So I basically guided that from a non-GAAP operating income standpoint it’s essentially neutral next year. And we’re suggesting folks not really change their expectations or their models for 2024 because it will take time to get these design wins and then for those to ramp over time.

Aura will continue as a company, absolutely. For the next few years, the products that they will continue to develop are part of this deal, and we will have complete ownership of the technology associated with those products. We will absorb them into our technology and we take complete control of management of those products going forward.

So in the future, if Aura were to cease to exist, I don’t believe that’s going to be the case, we are totally self-sufficient with that technology.

Rajesh Vashist - SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

And to add to that, one of the things -- I think of it as a 2-step. We get to start selling clocks as is, maybe 3-step -- clocks as is, then we get to add either virtually or literally our MEMS oscillator technology just like we have in Cascade, our current shipping product into it. And then the third is
we get to use this technology and build something that’s even greater as we go forward. So all 3 of these are going to come to bear in unspooling our road map.

Nathaniel Quinn Bolton - Needham & Company, LLC, Research Division - Senior Analyst

Got it. And then just sort of outside your largest customer, it sounds like you are starting to see a better order environment. Just wondering, I know orders have been pretty choppy and generally at low levels over the past couple of quarters, but could you describe the order trends that you’ve seen sort of through the third quarter into the fourth quarter? Have they improved? Is that what’s given you sort of this confidence in the pretty substantial growth rates you’re talking about for comms, enterprise, industrial and the A&D segments?

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Yes. So clearly, we’ve seen an uptick. We mentioned in our commentary we’ve seen an uptick in end user demand. So that is a piece of it. It is still a little choppy. Some days, our order rates are great by our standards. And some days, they’re not as great. So it is still a little bit choppy out there. But clearly, the order rate has increased. That’s what’s driving this sequential increase in those market segments that I described. And we are very confident in our Q4 guidance. So that says something about how we’re seeing changes in the market here.

And part of it, I’ll add to this, is that we’ve had this inventory issue all year. And as customers work through their inventory and get back to more normalized order levels, that helps improve sales, and we’re seeing some of that also.

Operator

Our next question comes from the line of Suji Desilva of ROTH MKM.

Suji Desilva - ROTH MKM Partners, LLC, Research Division - MD & Senior Research Analyst

Hi, Rajesh. And Art, best of luck on your transition here. And Beth, welcome to the team.

Beth Howe

Thank you.

Suji Desilva - ROTH MKM Partners, LLC, Research Division - MD & Senior Research Analyst

Sure. So Art, you talked in prior calls this year about an undershipping number of about $30 million this year. Is that still a good number to think about as a baseline going into ’24 to model growth off of? Just understanding if that inventory digestion kind of works back in next year.

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Yes. Again, those are not hard numbers because it has to do with the information we get from the subcontractors and how much "excess inventory" they have. But it’s in that ballpark, $30 million to $40 million of undershipment, I think, this year is in ballpark.
Suji Desilva - ROTH MKM Partners, LLC, Research Division - MD & Senior Research Analyst

Okay. Great. And then my other question on the Aura acquisition. You guys seem to have known about this company for a while, and it seems like it’s going to kind of accelerate the adoption of oscillators along with clocks in data center and comms. Why not do this transaction earlier? Why the timing of doing it now? And no pun intended.

Rajesh Vashist - SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

Well, it’s a good question. As you know, we have been very consistent that our acquisition, the first one would be in the clocking space. So I’m deeply gratified that we are living up to that promise over the last few years. And we’re doing it exactly in the clocking area and exactly in the networking comms, enterprise, AI space, which is the highest value part of the business.

Sometimes the timing is just right, Suji. The planets aligned. And in this case, we’ve been dealing with them for a while. As I said earlier, we have already launched the Cascade product line in 2020, and we saw the high-quality work that the guys at Aura Semiconductor did.

We saw the level of technology they brought to bear. And we think that while we could do that, it would take us time. And by connecting with these guys and bringing these products in, we’re accelerating by several years our revenue. And this just seemed to be the right time because we were also done with bringing a lot of new oscillator products, see the Epoch launch to the market.

So it just seemed like almost the perfect time. And this is one of those times when the planets aligned and Aura themselves were more open to this. And we’ve built a great relationship with them, with the team in Bangalore, India, and we’re very pleased with what they have done.

Operator

(Operator Instructions) Our next question comes from the line of Douglas O’Laughlin of Fabricated Knowledge.

Doug O’Laughlin

Congrats, Art. Welcome to the team, Beth. I just had a question on the comms segment. You said 5-0 quarter-over-quarter. Does that imply gross margin is troughing this quarter given that historically, you said that comms is your highest gross margin segment. And then I guess I have a follow-up on Aura.

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Yes. So I did say that the comms enterprise revenue will increase approximately 50%, 5-0 percent sequentially. These are still not large dollars that generally is higher gross margin for us, but we also have some other offsets throughout the rest of the business, which is why I had to guide relatively flat gross margins from Q3 to Q4.

Doug O’Laughlin

Okay. Perfect. And then I guess this one is more for Rajesh. Could you kind of walk us through how a customer would get an attach rate for something like an Aura Semiconductor clock product with an oscillator?

And I know these deals are going to take a long time, but just kind of walk us through the logic and the reason of why together, this is a much better deal for you guys. Just I think it would be helpful for us to understand and quantify and understand the impact of how big Aura could be for you and maybe even accelerate your oscillator business.
Rajesh Vashist - SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

Exactly. So our business in comms enterprise is the one that we believe is a very important one for SiTime. And this offering of clock-based products comes front and center into that. It takes us from a SAM of $50 million to an additional $450 million. So really increases it tenfold.

So if you look at a remote radio unit, in that we today supply both the oscillators that goes into RRUs or RRHs. Now alongside that are typically new clocks, which use either clock generators or network synchronizers or buffers that go into the same box, which heretofore, we had -- we did not possess. And while we've been building some of these internally, it just takes a lot longer. So with this product right away, we would have 4 slots in the RRU ready to go.

In another example, in the core router business, that's very heavy on clocking and relatively light on oscillators. So we have an opportunity for one oscillator, which we do supply, but there's an opportunity for up to 8 clocks that distribute, that are jitter cleaners, buffers and network synchronizers that are needed in that. And now we would have the opportunity to sell 8 more chips in that one core router.

And finally, in the data center, for example, in a server, we already have opportunity for oscillators, a couple of those, but now we would have an opportunity to sell up to 4 different kinds of clocks in that market. So these are 3 key markets. The first one was in the radio access networks. The second one was in the core edge and access networks and the third one is in the data center.

So we have really fulfilled our clocking opportunities and products not partially but wholly. In other words, it allows us to compete with the other clocking companies full front and center that have taken them decades to build these products. We're able to do that overnight. It gives us a unique opportunity because, of course, none of those clocking companies possess the SiTime MEMS-based technology with all its superior attributes.

So this gives our customers a very unique way to come to us to solve their entire clocking needs, entire timing needs. And we think that that's a very, very important place to be.

Doug O'Laughlin

Perfect. Would this be like some kind of integrated package unit that would be sold as like one piece that contains all these pieces of silicon and maybe versus another vendor, it's an integrated solution?

Rajesh Vashist - SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

Right. So first, as I said, it's the first step would be for us to sell these products as is. So we get quickly to design wins and in the market. The second one would be to do a virtual value creation. So 2 chips, not in 1 chip, 2 separate chips that are sold, particularly in connection with our Epoch product in connection with our Elite RF and Elite X products.

But then the third time around is to do what we've already done with Cascade. Our Cascade family of products has an oscillator from SiTime integrated into it, and that's been very valuable to our customers. We would do that for the clock generators, we would do that for the jitter cleaners, and we do that for the network synchronizers. So it has the opportunity to take our product ASPs significantly higher and make our products significantly more valuable, either through the virtual integration or the actual physical integration, and we're going to do both throughout.

Operator

Our next question comes from the line of Tore Svanberg of Stifel.
Tore Egil Svanberg - Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, Research Division - MD

Yes. Tore at Stifel. Just had 2 quick follow-ups. First of all, Art, I noticed the DSO went up quite a bit. Is that because of a revenue mix? Or are customers starting to ask for extended terms at this point?

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

No, it has nothing to do with customers asking for extended terms. It has to do with the fact that this particular quarter for a particular -- some manufacturing reasons, was a little more back-end loaded. So when you ship more of your quarter near the back end of the quarter, it raises the DSOs because you ship it and you can't collect it within the same quarter. I expect DSOs would drop back to more normal levels in Q4.

Tore Egil Svanberg - Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, Research Division - MD

Understood. And my other follow-up, coming back to Aura. So it sounds like with the earnout, the total cost could be as much as $268 million. You mentioned a potential $100 million business. So I was just hoping you could share a little bit more on the math that the management team went through to determine this type of a price.

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Yes. Well, first of all, I think your numbers are correct. You have to remember that the payment that we're making both the fixed payment and the earnout payment are being paid over a number of years. So that obviously impacts kind of the present value of the deal. But if we can grow this to a $100 million a year business in a number of years and grow beyond that, put a reasonable multiple on that revenue and a multiple on -- we should be able to run this at our target operating margin of 30%. That drives a lot more value than the $268 million that we'll end up paying them if we pay out the full earnout.

Operator

Our next question comes from the line of Chris Caso of Wolfe Research.

Christopher Caso - Wolfe Research, LLC - MD

I guess just a question on gross margins and how we should look at them going into next year. What are the steps? And what's the visibility on getting the gross margins back to more normalized levels as the market starts to come back?

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Sure. Well, we've talked about this before. At a very high level, as our revenue increases, our fixed manufacturing overhead becomes a lower percentage of the cost of sales, and so that improves margins. My simple example is, if we can double revenue from the current run rate, that improves margins by about 5 percentage points because our overhead is running about 10 points of margin. So that is one way that our margins will improve again. It's also one reason why our margins are down from where they were a year ago. And the other is mix.

The middle of this year, if you recall, our comms and enterprise customers had way more inventory than they needed. Our sales in that segment were down dramatically. And that mix should improve over time. If you recall a year and change ago, that segment was almost 1/3 of our business. And over time, if we get it back up to 1/3 of our business, that helps blended margins substantially. So right now, we think that margins will move back up into the 60s next year, probably low 60s earlier in the year and increased sequentially through the course of the year. So that's how I see it right now.
Christopher Caso - Wolfe Research, LLC - MD

Okay. That's helpful. I guess my next question is, it's on China, both kind of shorter term and more broadly also, and there's been a lot of talk about incremental weakness in China because of the economic conditions there. To what extent is that contributing to what you're seeing here? And then longer term in China, maybe you could talk about the opportunity because obviously geopolitical tension right now that at least desire to in-source more product. Obviously, there's no MEMS timing sources within China right now. But does the geopolitical situation impact your opportunities in China going forward?

Rajesh Vashist - SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

In general, our China business is a robust, meaningful part of our revenue. Much of it comes from industrial and from automotive. So we are not subject to the same restrictions that we see in comms with some of the bigger guys in China nor are we in the consumer segment in any meaningful way.

So we think that the China business will continue to grow, even though some of the macro conditions continue to be somewhat choppy as we see in the headlines. I think our China business next year grows over our China business this year, simply if I look at the design win and the design win rate.

There is some -- we don't do any production in China. So we don't have any restrictions when it comes to the so-called China-free requirements. So we're good there. Some of the people are talking about Taiwan-free. So to some extent, we have to pay attention to that. But in general, we think that China continues to be an important part of our revenue source and business source and we support it with a lot of success.

Operator

At this time, I'm showing no further questions. I would like to now turn it back to management for closing remarks.

Arthur D. Chadwick - SiTime Corporation - Executive VP & CFO

Great. So first of all, I want to say thank you for all the kind comments from all of you folks that asked questions. We have nothing else on our end. So we want to thank everybody for joining us for the call today, and have a great evening. Thank you very much.

Rajesh Vashist - SiTime Corporation - Chairman, President & CEO

Thank you, guys.

Operator

Thank you for your participation in today's conference. This does conclude the program. You may now disconnect.
NOVEMBER 01, 2023 / 9:00PM, SITM.OQ - Q3 2023 SiTime Corp Earnings Call

DISCLAIMER

Refinitiv reserves the right to make changes to documents, content, or other information on this web site without obligation to notify any person of such changes.

In the conference calls upon which Event Transcripts are based, companies may make projections or other forward-looking statements regarding a variety of items. Such forward-looking statements are based upon current expectations and involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those stated in any forward-looking statement based on a number of important factors and risks, which are more specifically identified in the companies’ most recent SEC filings. Although the companies may indicate and believe that the assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements are reasonable, any of the assumptions could prove inaccurate or incorrect and, therefore, there can be no assurance that the results contemplated in the forward-looking statements will be realized.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN EVENT TRANSCRIPTS IS A TEXTUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE APPLICABLE COMPANY’S CONFERENCE CALL AND WHILE EFFORTS ARE MADE TO PROVIDE AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPTION, THERE MAY BE MATERIAL ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR INACCURACIES IN THE REPORTING OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE CALLS. IN NO WAY DOES REFINITIV OR THE APPLICABLE COMPANY ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY INVESTMENT OR OTHER DECISIONS MADE BASED UPON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS WEB SITE OR IN ANY EVENT TRANSCRIPT. USERS ARE ADVISED TO REVIEW THE APPLICABLE COMPANY’S CONFERENCE CALL ITSELF AND THE APPLICABLE COMPANY’S SEC FILINGS BEFORE MAKING ANY INVESTMENT OR OTHER DECISIONS.

©2023, Refinitiv. All Rights Reserved.