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Greater China Technology Hardware | Asia Pacific

Takeaways on NPO from 2026 OCP Global Summit

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GREATER CHINA TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE
Asia Pacific
Industry View **In-Line**

Key Takeaways

- Connectivity has become the bottleneck, and NPO is a potential solution. We observed growing discussion and interest in NPO at the conference.

On Day 2 of the 2026 OCP Global Summit, an IPEC optical interconnect workshop focused on discussions around NPO. Industry participants such as Source Photonics, Lightcounting, Alibaba, Meta, Oracle, Microsoft, Ciena, Ligent, Genuine Optics, Lumentum, Lumilens, NVIDIA and Huawei presented their views on NPO.

The industry has formed the view **connectivity**, rather than compute alone, is becoming the primary bottleneck. Near-packaged optics (NPO) move optical conversion closer to compute, targeting better signal integrity, bandwidth, and energy efficiency. OpenCPX explicitly targets common mechanical, electrical, optical, thermal, and management interfaces across suppliers, providing the ecosystem with a shared implementation framework rather than only a broad architectural vision.

However, we also observed debate over whether pluggable NPO offers materially better flexibility and serviceability than CPO. Key concern on CPO is that optical failure could result in scrapping an entire ASIC assembly.

Overall, we observed growing discussion and interests in NPO, implying a greater likelihood of accelerated commercialization over the next 12-18 months, in our view.

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