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Industry Exec Briefing Vol. 3, Issue 18

The purpose of the IEB is to provide a high-level overview of the industries we work within, including our top suppliers, customer care vendors and everything in between from the previous week.

Hot Topics

Tariffs & Trade

- [TSMC's Nanjing Plant Increases Tension Between Taiwan and China] [South China Morning Post](#) reports that TSMC is planning to invest \$2.87 billion in its Nanjing plant in China to expand production. While the investment will prove fruitful for addressing the current global chip shortage, it has still heightened tension between Taipei and Beijing. The Taiwanese minister of economic affairs, Wang Mei-Hua, was also questioned on whether the investment would increase the risk of Taiwanese technology getting stolen by the Chinese.
- [Huawei to See Massive Decline in HiSilicon Revenues Amid US-China Tech War] [South China Morning Post](#) writes that HiSilicon, Huawei's integrated circuit design unit, is expected to see a significant decline in sales in the 5G smartphone chip market during 2021. As per reports, Huawei held 23% of the market share in 2020. Its share is likely to fall to less than 5% in 2021, allowing Qualcomm and MediaTek to expand their presence. The decline in business is primarily due to tightened US sanctions preventing semiconductor companies from supplying Huawei with advanced semiconductor chips.

Executive Movement, Releases and M&A Activity

- [TSMC to Build More Chipmaking Factories in Arizona] [Reuters](#) reports that TSMC plans to expand its operations in Arizona by building more chipmaking factories in the state. The chipmaker expects to build a factory valued at \$12 billion in Arizona. As per sources, they are also planning 5 additional factories in the state to ramp up production.
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- [Apple Awards \$410 million to II-VI] [Apple](#) announced that it would be awarding \$410 million to II-VI, a manufacturer of optical technology. The company manufactures VCSELs (vertical-cavity surface-emitting lasers) that are used to power features like Face ID, Animoji, Portrait mode, and Memoji in Apple devices. Apple is also working with II-VI to deliver faster and more realistic AR experiences.
- [Qualcomm and LitePoint Sign Agreement to Test 5G solutions] [GlobeNewswire](#) writes that Qualcomm and LitePoint have entered an agreement to support the development of LitePoint's 5G test solutions for Qualcomm's 5G RAN platform. This could accelerate small cell deployment and offer increased coverage and a more uniform 5G user experience.
- [Jeff Bezos Sells \$2.5 Billion Worth of Amazon Shares] [Live Mint](#) writes that Jeff Bezos has sold approximately 739,000 of Amazon shares in his first big disposal for 2021. The stock was valued at \$2.5 billion. He plans to sell approximately 2 million shares altogether this year.
- [Foxconn Forms Joint Venture With Yageo Corp] [Reuters](#) reports that Foxconn has entered into a joint venture with Yageo to expand its presence in the global semiconductor industry. The two companies are currently having discussions with other global semiconductor companies and will announce more plans for collaboration.
- [Apple Awards \$45 million to Corning] [Apple](#) announced that it would be awarding \$45 million to Corning Incorporated. The organization supplies precision glasses for Apple devices such as the iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch. The funds will be used to expand the company's manufacturing capacity in the United States and encourage research and development into new technologies that add to the durability of Apple products.

Contract Manufacturers, Suppliers, & Logistics

- [Qualcomm Accuses EU of Apple Bias in \$1.2 Billion Fine] [Bloomberg](#) reports that Qualcomm has lodged accusations against EU investigators for being biased toward Apple. The company was earlier faced with a \$1.2 billion antitrust fine for allegedly pressuring Apple into only buying its 4G chips. According to Qualcomm's legal representative, the European Commission carried out a biased investigation, allowing Apple to dictate the process.

- [Huawei Not Among Indian 5G Trials] [Reuters](#) reports that India has not named Huawei among the equipment makers allowed to carry out 5G trials with local mobile carriers. The government announced that it would allow mobile carriers to conduct trials with Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung, and other equipment makers. Another smaller Chinese rival, ZTE, was also missing from the list.
- [Facebook Takes VR to the Next Level With Quest Pro] [CNET](#) writes that Zuckerberg plans to upgrade the VR experience with Quest Pro. The device will carry innovative sensors for tracking the face and eyes. It could also be used for tracking fitness. The new senses are expected to enhance the VR experience and are part of Facebook's plan to introduce social VR. Facebook also launched Oculus Quest 2 recently. It provides a wire-free experience and is expected to encourage more people to embrace VR.
- [Apple Hires Stella Low as VP of Worldwide Corporate Communications] [MacRumors](#) reports that Apple has hired Stella Low as the new vice president of global corporate communications. The role had been previously unoccupied for the last two years. Apple expects Low to use her experience and leadership to add value to the organization's communications team and guide Apple into the next chapter.

Sustainability

- [Samsung Creates More Sustainable Opportunities to Reduce E-Waste] [Samsung South Africa](#) announced that it would be working with the government to develop e-waste businesses. The company's R280-million EEIP (Equity Equivalent Investment Programme) aims to help Black industrialists engaged in the Recycling sector. The program has 2 phases, with the first phase focusing on supporting Black businesses in the e-waste value chains. In the second phase, Samsung will partner with specialists in the industry to provide useful technology to Black industrialists.

For insight on commodities, please head over to the Commodity Corner. You can request a subscription [here](#) or reach out to Jia Yu (jiayumtv@google.com).

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