

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) Fab 14 B Hit With Chemical Contamination; NVIDIA, MEDIATEK, Huawei, Hisilicon Lines Affected

Reportedly, between 10,000 and 30,000 wafers have been affected (though not scrapped, so there might be salvageable bits and pieces here and there). Of course, every wafer will have to go through a thorough certification process, and the fab will have to go down for the company to purge any remains of these botched chemical compounds.

To put things into perspective, though, Fab 14 B is one of TSMC's Gigafabs, which have a rated monthly output of 100k wafers - so production worth between three and ten days could be affected already, with the additional downtime accruing lost potential fabrication. This event isn't expected to significantly affect availability of any of the products for any of the companies, but these are becoming, at the very least, late inventory - this could well play into some speculative increases in pricing from some players in the market.



VIS To Acquire GLOBALFOUNDRIES' Fab 3E In Singapore

Vanguard International Semiconductor Corporation (VIS) and GLOBALFOUNDRIES (GF) today announced that VIS will acquire GF's Fab 3E in Tampines, Singapore. The transaction includes buildings, facilities, and equipment, as well as IP associated with GF's MEMS business. GF will continue to operate the facility through the end of 2019, providing a transition period to facilitate technology transfers for VIS and existing GF customers. Fab 3E currently manages a monthly capacity of approximately 35,000 8-inch wafers. The transaction amounts to \$236 million USD and the transfer of ownership is set to be completed on December 31st, 2019.



Foldable phone wars: Huawei's Mate X takes on Samsung's Galaxy Fold All doubt has been removed, the era of the folding smartphone is here. On February 20, Samsung showed off the [Galaxy Fold](#), and if you got excited over that, wait until you see the Huawei Mate X. Huawei has been open about [making a folding phone](#) for a while, and even mentioned that it will [support 5G](#) before, but now we've seen it — from a distance — and it's even more intriguing than Samsung's phone.

Here's everything we know about the Huawei Mate X folding smartphone.

Intel 5G modem chips won't be available until 2020, could delay 5G iPhone The wait comes because chip manufacturer Intel announced this week that their 5G modem chips will not be available in cell phones until 2020. This could be a particular problem for Apple, which uses Intel chips in its devices and had planned to launch the next-generation iPhone with 5G capabilities in 2020.

NTU and Volvo launch world's first full-sized autonomous electric bus for trial

SINGAPORE - Road users near Nanyang Technological University (NTU) could see a self-driving bus on the road later this year, as autonomous vehicles edge closer to becoming a viable form of transport.

NTU and Swedish firm Volvo have launched a 12m-long autonomous electric bus, which they say is the world's first.

KLA+ Receives Antitrust Clearance for the Proposed Merger with Orbotech Ltd. in the People's Republic of China; Announces Expected Closing Date

KLA+ and Orbotech Ltd today announced that following a series of cooperative discussions, the State Administration for Market Regulation of the People's Republic of China (SAMR) provided antitrust clearance for the proposed merger involving KLA and Orbotech Ltd., as provided in the SAMR's clearance decision dated Feb. 13, 2019. KLA and Orbotech expect to close the merger on Feb. 20, 2019.