

Taiwan chip firms flock to Japan as China decoupling accelerates

TOKYO, Feb 22 (Reuters) – Japan’s efforts to rebuild its semiconductor industry are getting a shot in the arm as more and more Taiwanese chip companies expand here – not only to support a new TSMC plant but also excited about the Japanese sector’s prospects.

The influx comes amid shifting alliances and priorities in the global chip industry as the United States pushes to limit China’s progress in cutting-edge semiconductors and strengthen partnerships between its allies.

Fabless chipmaker Alchip Technologies which specialises in customised chips known as application-specific integrated chips (ASICs), is illustrative of the China decoupling trend.

In 2022, the bulk of its research and development engineers were based in China but Alchip has begun moving roles overseas, many to Japan, said a source who was briefed on the matter.

The company said it is hiring in Japan, North America and Taiwan but declined to comment further on personnel matters.

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