

Taiwan's TSMC makes chips for new iPhone

TAIPEI, TAIWAN: Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co has started producing chips to be used in Apple's next iPhone, reports said on Wednesday, 5 March, as speculation swirls that US firm could be offloading rival Samsung as a supplier.



TSMC is believed to be manufacturing the new A8 chip for the iPhone 6. Image: [B2B](#)

The world's leading contract microchip manufacturer started producing the A8 - Apple's latest of the line of processors tipped to power the expected iPhone 6 - last month, the Taipei-based Commercial Times reported, citing supply chain sources.

The reports said TSMC had swept most of the manufacturing orders for logic and power management integrated chips that would be installed on the handset. The Commercial Times forecast the new phone, which will probably have a 4.7-inch screen, will hit shelves early in the third quarter of this year.

TSMC declined to comment on the report.

The news has fed rumours that Apple is reducing its reliance for parts on South Korean company Samsung, its main competitor in the mobile phone market and a bitter rival with which it is contesting several copyright court battles globally.

Taipei-based website TechNews has claimed TSMC will now replace to become the sole manufacturer of the A8 chips.

Last year the Wall Street Journal cited unidentified TSMC executives as saying Apple had struck a deal with the Taiwan firm as part of its move to diversify suppliers.

Samsung last month unveiled its new flagship Galaxy S5 smartphone armed with a fingerprint scanner and a built-in heart rate sensor as it looks to cement its position as leader in the multi-billion-dollar smartphone market.

Samsung made about 30% of all smartphones sold globally last year, nearly twice as many as Apple.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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