

BOOST TO LOCAL MANUFACTURING

India-made chips may soon power iPhones

Micron plans to supply chips from Sanand unit to Apple

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA
New Delhi, 18 April

Micron Technology, a global leader in memory and storage, is considering supplying Made-in-India chips from its Gujarat plant to one of its key global clients, Apple, whose vendors assemble iPhones in the country.

Micron is setting up an assembly test marking and packaging (ATMP) plant in Sanand, Gujarat.

Currently, Apple vendors import chips for manufacturing iPhones. Sources in the know say the aim is to use part of the production to supply to Micron's clients in India directly.

The Sanand plant is expected to roll out the first India-made chips by December. Sources aware of the development say that while the wafers will be imported from Micron's plants in other parts of the world, they will be processed into chips at the India plant.

However, a final deal will depend on Apple Inc agreeing to it.

Although the chips will be exported initially in the first phase, Micron is planning to supply them directly to its global clients in the next phase to manufacturing or assembly facilities in India and Apple is one of them; Apple's three vendors assemble iPhones in the country and, in fact, 12 per cent of total iPhone production is assembled in India. Micron has facilities for ATMP and wafers in various locations, including the US, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, China, and Taiwan.

MICRON'S CHIP PLAY

■ The 'Made in India' chips will roll out by December

■ Plan is to import wafers and process them to make chips in India

■ Micron will also supply the chips directly to its global clients in India, one of which is Apple Inc



Apple declined to comment. Micron Technology did not respond to questions either in India or at its headquarters.

The use of Made in India chips will go a long way in Apple's drive for value addition here, which is currently pegged at only 10-12 per cent.

Under its production-linked incentive scheme for mobile devices, the government had targeted that mobile phones eligible under the scheme should hit 40 per cent value addition by the end of five years in FY26.

Micron was the first big global company to be cleared under the government's semiconductor scheme. It is investing \$2.75 billion to build its ATMP plant at Sanand.

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Tata to roll out JLR cars from new TN plant

REUTERS
New Delhi, 18 April

Tata Motors will manufacture Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) luxury cars at a \$1 billion plant that it is planning to build in Tamil Nadu, two sources said. The plan would mark the first time that JLR-branded cars would be manufactured from scratch in the country.

The cars would be sold domestically and also exported, according to one of the sources, who declined to be identified as the plans were private.

Tata Motors, which acquired JLR in 2008, declined to comment on what it called speculation. It announced plans for the Tamil Nadu plant in March but did not disclose what vehicles would be manufactured there or the plant's intended production capacity.

JLR has three car factories in Britain and also builds cars in China, Brazil and Slovakia. Turn to Page 9 ▶

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iPhones

The central and the state government will provide a 70 per cent subsidy on the construction of the project (the centre offers a subsidy of 50 per cent). The plant will have one of the largest clean rooms in the world of over one million square feet. It is expected to generate 5000 direct jobs and 15,000-20,000 indirect jobs in Gujarat. A senior Micron executive has said earlier that the value addition in processing the wafers to different kinds of chips could be between 10-40 per cent.