Market Trend Forum

The Global Semiconductor Market: Crossing the $1 Trillion Milestone in Q3 2026 and the Outlook Ahead

T. Pröttel
CEO
WSTS, Wörth, Germany

Abstract
The global semiconductor industry is experiencing an unprecedented period of growth, reaching a historic milestone by surpassing **US$1 trillion** in annual sales already in August 2026. Driven primarily by accelerating investments in artificial intelligence, data center infrastructure, and advanced computing, the market is expanding at a pace never seen before.
Drawing on the latest statistics from **World Semiconductor Trade Statistics** (WSTS), this presentation examines the key developments shaping the global semiconductor market in 2026. It highlights the extraordinary growth of the Memory and Logic segments, regional market dynamics, and the contrasting developments across major end-use applications. Particular attention is given to the European semiconductor market and the differences between traditional Automotive and Industrial applications and the rapidly expanding AI-driven data center segment.
Looking ahead, the presentation provides an updated market outlook based on WSTS forecasts, with global semiconductor sales projected to exceed US$1.6 trillion in 2026 and reach approximately US$2.1 trillion in 2027. The analysis offers insights into the underlying growth drivers, evolving market structure, and future opportunities for the global semiconductor industry.

Biography
Tobias Pröttel
CEO, World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS)

Tobias Pröttel is the CEO of World Semiconductor Trade Statistics (WSTS), a global non-profit organization providing semiconductor market statistics and forecasts. In his role, he leads the organization's worldwide activities, working closely with leading semiconductor companies and regional industry associations to ensure reliable and transparent market intelligence.
With extensive experience in the semiconductor industry, Tobias focuses on global market developments, industry trends, and forecasting. He regularly engages with industry leaders and international organizations to provide insights into the evolving semiconductor landscape and the key drivers shaping its future.

References

Europe's Semiconductor Moment: Turning AI Disruption into European Opportunity

P. Pfingstag
Partner
McKinsey & Company, Stuttgart, Germany

Abstract
Artificial intelligence is transforming the global semiconductor industry, with the market potentially more than doubling to $2.3 trillion by 2030. This unprecedented growth creates significant opportunities for Europe. With world-leading semiconductor equipment companies, cutting-edge research, and a strong industrial base, Europe has the foundations to play a pivotal role in the AI era. This presentation explores Europe's unique competitive strengths, and how Europe can seize this moment to build a lasting competitive advantage in the global semiconductor industry.

Biography
Philipp Pfingstag is a Partner at McKinsey based in Stuttgart.
Since joining the firm in 2018, Philipp has served clients mostly in semiconductor on multiple topics with a focus on capacity expansion.
Philipp holds a Ph.D. in Technology and Innovation Management from the Technical University of Munich and a M.Sc. in Chemistry and Business Studies from the University of Zurich. During his doctoral studies, Philipp spent several months at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

References

From Electrification to Physical AI: Securing Europe's Leadership in Power Semiconductors

C. Malaquin
Practice Lead, Power Markets
TechInsights, Ottawa, Canada

Abstract

For decades, Europe has been at the forefront of power electronics and power semiconductor innovation, enabling advances in industrial automation, energy infrastructure, and automotive electrification. European companies have built a unique ecosystem spanning OEMs, Tier 1 suppliers, semiconductor manufacturers, wafer fab equipment companies, materials suppliers, and world-class research organizations.

Today, the semiconductor industry is entering a new chapter. As artificial intelligence expands beyond the datacenter into the physical world, demand for efficient, reliable, and sustainable power management is set to grow dramatically. From AI datacenters and robotics to smart factories and intelligent energy systems, power semiconductors will be critical enablers of the next wave of productivity and economic growth.

Europe is well-positioned to capture this opportunity. Its long-standing strengths in automotive, industrial, and energy applications provide a strong foundation for emerging markets such as AI infrastructure and physical AI. Yet competitive pressures are intensifying as China expands manufacturing capacity, strengthens domestic supply chains, and accelerates development across both silicon and wide-bandgap power semiconductor technologies.

This presentation will examine the evolving global power semiconductor landscape, Europe's competitive advantages, and the strategic actions needed to sustain technology leadership. It will explore how investment, innovation, ecosystem collaboration, and international partnerships can strengthen resilience, enhance competitiveness, and support long-term growth as the industry moves from the age of electrification to the era of physical AI.

Biography

Cédric Malaquin is Practice Lead for Power Markets at TechInsights, with over 20 years of experience in the semiconductor industry. He specializes in power semiconductors and RF front-end technologies, covering both compound semiconductor and silicon technologies across automotive, industrial, consumer, and datacenter applications. Prior to TechInsights, Cédric led the Radio Frequency Devices Market Analysis team at Yole Group and held a variety of technical roles at Soitec in process development, integration, and electrical characterization. He combines deep technical expertise with market insight to help clients navigate the rapidly evolving semiconductor landscape.

References

From AI Demand to Manufacturing Reality: Scaling Across Fabs, Packaging, and Materials

C. Tseng
Sr. Director
SEMI, Milpitas, United States of America

Abstract
AI infrastructure is reshaping the semiconductor manufacturing cycle, driving stronger investment in leading-edge logic, advanced memory, test, packaging, and the materials required to support increasingly complex devices and systems. This presentation will examine how these demand shifts are translating into fab investment, equipment spending, capacity expansion, and technology migration across the global semiconductor industry.

The discussion will also look beyond the fab. As AI systems depend increasingly on advanced packaging, higher-bandwidth memory, interconnect, and more complex material requirements, manufacturing constraints are becoming more interconnected across the value chain. The presentation will explore how process intensity, packaging complexity, and materials demand are evolving alongside wafer capacity, and what these changes mean for investment priorities, supply-chain readiness, and regional manufacturing strategies in Europe and globally.

Biography
Clark Tseng is Senior Director of Market Intelligence at SEMI, where he leads the development and execution of global market intelligence strategies covering the semiconductor manufacturing supply chain. He oversees SEMI's market research portfolio and global research partnerships, providing analysis and forecasts on fab investment, capacity, equipment, materials, and semiconductor manufacturing trends. Clark has extensive experience analyzing the semiconductor industry across foundry, IDM, memory, fabless, and OSAT markets, with a particular focus on manufacturing investment, technology transitions, and regional supply-chain dynamics.

Before joining SEMI, Clark held strategic and analytical roles at leading technology companies. At MediaTek, he served as Deputy Director of the Computing, Connectivity, and Metaverse Business Group, providing market intelligence and competitive analysis across computing, connectivity, automotive, and emerging technology markets. Previously, he was Division Manager for Strategy and Business Development at Qimonda, where he led market and competitive intelligence activities for the Asia-Pacific region. He began his career as an analyst at IDC, covering semiconductor, flat-panel display, and telecommunications markets.

Clark holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

References