

Taiwan a Major Player in the World Semiconductor Arena, Semico Reminds

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With so much information in the news about China and the huge market known as Asia, the details of the importance of Taiwan gets lost, researchers at Semico Research Corp. believe.

Specifically, the Taiwanese semiconductor industry ranks fourth, globally, according to the Phoenix-based firm.

While overall 2004 was a banner year for the semiconductor industry, Taiwan did even better than worldwide performance—its semiconductor industry's annual growth rate hit 34 percent in 2004 comparing to a global 24.8 percent, Semico said.

Plus, many Taiwanese IT manufacturers have shifted their manufacturing facilities to mainland China, indicating that Taiwan is the powerhouse for semiconductor production.

"Taiwan is a global leader in foundry and captures the second-largest IC design industry," stated Philip Wang, an analyst at Semico, in a statement.

"This year Taiwan's semiconductor industry will continue to outperform the worldwide standard with a 6.7 percent annual growth rate and the industry production values reaching \$35.9 billion," Wang concluded.

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