



Semiconductor Weekly News

August 10 – 16, 2026

Wall Street steps in to fund the AI buildout, TSMC's July sales jump 44.7%, and the memory shortage reaches Nvidia's flagship configurations.

Miki Matsui, Co-Founder, CHIP-J

Sources: NVIDIA, TSMC, Intel, Sony, The White House, EE Times, Tom's Hardware and others

★ Editor's Picks

\$500B+

Nvidia taps outside capital

MOUs with Apollo, BlackRock, Blackstone, Brookfield, Goldman Sachs and KKR would create independent platforms financing AI infrastructure, subject to final agreements.

(NVIDIA, Aug 10)

\$29.4B

TSMC's board approves capex

The board approved roughly \$29.44B of capital appropriations for advanced technology and packaging capacity and fab construction, plus an image-sensor JV with Sony.

(TSMC, Aug 11)

192GB

Memory crunch hits flagship

Rubin Ultra variants trimmed to as little as 192GB are reportedly in test. The same crunch lifted the RTX 5070's median street price by 36%.

(Tom's Hardware, Aug 12)

1. AI Chips & GPUs

① **Nvidia reportedly tests cut-down Rubin Ultra memory**

The Information reports at least three lower-memory Rubin Ultra variants in test — 192GB and 256GB builds with fewer than the announced 16 stacks, and HBM4 replacing HBM4E — as HBM4E's customizable base logic die strains supplier capacity.

(Tom's Hardware / The Information, Aug 12)

② **Samsung's HBM4 yield hits 80%; SK hynix's risk is labor**

Samsung's HBM4 yield has reportedly climbed to 80% from under 60% at February mass production, and it plans to more than triple HBM4 revenue in Q3. SK hynix is also in the 80% range, but its fifth round of wage talks failed over profit-sharing.

(TrendForce, Aug 10)

③ **Intel floats a memory return with XBM and ZAM**

CEO Lip-Bu Tan said memory is no longer a commodity. XBM moves DRAM cells into the back end and serializes over UCIe instead of a CoWoS interposer; ZAM, with SoftBank's Saimemory, targets roughly 2x HBM4 bandwidth density but is slated for 2029–2030.

(EE Times, Aug 14)

2. Fab & Supply Chain

1 TSMC's July sales surge 44.7%, ahead of full-year plan

July consolidated revenue of NT\$467.58B rose 44.7% year over year and 5.6% month over month. Seven-month revenue reached NT\$2,872.06B, up 37.0%, keeping TSMC ahead of its full-year guidance of slightly above 40% growth in US-dollar terms.

(TSMC, Aug 10)

2 Intel prices an upsized \$20B share sale

Intel priced 210,526,315 shares at \$95, upsizing the deal from \$15B to \$20B for net proceeds of about \$19.7B. It has not assigned the money to specific projects, but risk disclosures cite 14A, Arizona Fab 52/62 and Ohio. Bloomberg reported ~\$100B of demand.

(Intel, Aug 10 / Tom's Hardware, Aug 11)

3 Advanced packaging is the industry's tightest link

Applied Materials posted record fiscal Q3 revenue of \$9.115B, up 25% year over year and 15% sequentially, with non-GAAP EPS of \$3.50. TSMC says CoWoS and SoIC capacity is nearing balance with demand at 98%-plus yield.

(Applied Materials, Aug 13 / DigiTimes, Aug 11)

3. Consumer Chips

1 Qualcomm details Snapdragon C for ~\$300 laptops

Up to 8 Kryo cores reach 3.0GHz on a single core and 2.0GHz all-core sustained, with a 900MHz GPU and up to 16GB of LPDDR5/5X/4X. Qualcomm claims 67% faster multi-threaded and 50% faster single-threaded Cinebench on battery than Intel's N250.

(Tom's Hardware, Aug 12)

2 RTX 50-series prices spike by as much as 39%

Median Newegg listings for the RTX 5070 rose 36% and the RTX 5060 27% as Blackwell increases reached US retail, with the RTX 5060 Ti 16GB up 39%. The article notes AMD has not matched the hikes, with only single-digit RDNA 4 increases so far.

(Tom's Hardware, Aug 10)

3 Intel's next-generation core debuts on desktop, not Xeon

VP Robert Hallock said the new core arrives first with Nova Lake on desktop — the inverse of AMD leading Zen 6 with EPYC Venice. He said the desktop roadmap now runs to 2030, while conceding he does not have those processors in hand.

(Tom's Hardware, Aug 16)

4. Data Centers & Energy

1 **Nvidia and six capital giants target \$500B+**

MOUs with Apollo, BlackRock, Blackstone, Brookfield, Goldman Sachs and KKR would create independent platforms mobilizing over \$500B of third-party capital for AI infrastructure built on Nvidia hardware. Execution is subject to final agreements.

(NVIDIA, Aug 10)

2 **Anthropic, Macquarie and GIC launch a DC platform**

Theseus Infrastructure will develop, operate and lease purpose-built data centers to Anthropic as anchor tenant, with Macquarie funds and GIC owning the platform. Anthropic will cover consumer power price rises from its sites.

(Macquarie / Bloomberg, Aug 10)

3 **PJM weighs interconnection rules for data centers**

A July 22 fault originating in northern Virginia took nearly 4GW of data-center capacity offline — the largest such event in PJM's footprint — and PJM is evaluating enhanced reliability requirements. FERC has already ordered NERC to draft enforceable standards.

(Data Center Dynamics, Aug 13)

5. Autonomous Driving

1 **Waymo cleared for paid driverless rides in 18 counties**

The CPUC cleared 12 Northern and 6 Southern California counties, adding Sacramento and San Diego, at all speed limits including freeways and in rain, fog and hail. Waymo targets 1 million rides per week by year end.

(Electrek, Aug 14)

2 **Uber and Pony.ai plan 2,000 robotaxis in Europe**

The expanded partnership would put 2,000 Pony.ai robotaxis into four European cities, with Croatia's Zagreb named as the initial market. Neither the remaining city names nor the timeline was disclosed.

(TechCrunch, Aug 14)

3 **Tier IV will open-source a Level 4 AV SoC**

Joining Japan's JST-led next-generation edge AI semiconductor program, Tier IV will publish the logic design, compiler and toolchain. It targets performance-per-watt and uses TOSA so updates ship as software.

(Automotive World, Aug 14)

6. Startups & Venture

\$1.1B

River AI — AI silicon, Palo Alto

A seed and a Series A led by General Catalyst and AMP PBC, joined by Nvidia, AMD Ventures, Y Combinator and Temasek. A job posting indicates the company will build its own SoC with an on-board ML accelerator.

(SiliconANGLE, Aug 11)

\$720M

Rigaku Holdings — X-ray inspection, Tokyo

Onto Innovation took a minority equity stake in the maker of X-ray diffraction, fluorescence and non-destructive testing tools used for semiconductor process control.

(FinSMEs, Aug 10)

\$136M

Point2 Technology — interconnect, San Jose

A Series B extension led by LB Investment with Arm, Nvidia, UMC Capital, Molex and Bosch Ventures takes total funding to \$136M. Its RF signaling sends data over plastic waveguides.

(FinSMEs, Aug 10)

7. Deals & Policy

Sony–TSMC Kumamoto JV

A May preliminary deal became a binding agreement for a JV in Koshi City, Kumamoto. Sony puts in ¥465B as controlling shareholder and TSMC ¥282B; production from 2029.

(Sony, Aug 11)

Korea's 5T won chip fund

A 5 trillion won (\$3.52B) fund targets materials, parts, equipment and fabless firms, plus 5 trillion won of trade finance. A Gwangju airbase moves by mid-2028 to free 8.3M sq m.

(Reuters, Aug 10)

BIS pressed on chip rule

John Moolenaar asked BIS to confirm the foundry due-diligence rule is still enforced after the 2025 non-enforcement notice. It presumes 14/16nm dies are controlled AI parts.

(Tom's Hardware, Aug 11)

FCC eyes transceiver ban

The FCC is drafting an import ban on new-model Chinese optical transceivers. TrendForce puts China at ~56% of optical-module capacity; US suppliers are ~30% overbought.

(Tom's Hardware, Aug 11)

8. Tariffs & State Policy

Section 232: up to 100% on drones

A new proclamation imposes 100% tariffs on drones over 25kg, thermal-imaging drones, docking stations and certain critical components, and 25% on smaller drones and other parts. Allied caps of 15% apply to Japan, the EU, Korea, Taiwan, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and 10% to the UK. The tariffs take effect Sept 3, 2026, with non-sensitive components deferred 180 days.

(The White House, Aug 13)

California: a first Teen Tech Council convenes

The First Partner, Newsom's California Innovation Council and the nonprofit #HalfTheStory convened 20 teens from more than ten school districts in Sacramento for an inaugural roundtable on AI safety, deepfakes, generative AI in classrooms and AI literacy. Statewide recruitment opens this fall, with training in spring 2027. No new executive order, legislation or funding was announced.

(Gov. Newsom, Aug 11)



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