



Semiconductor Weekly News

September 21–27, 2026

AI-chip stocks hit record highs while data-center expansion collided with local pushback and power constraints.

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Sources: company releases, government filings, Bloomberg, Reuters, CNBC, TechCrunch, and others

Editor's Picks

\$1T

AMD's First Trillion

AMD topped a \$1 trillion market value for the first time intraday (Sept 21) as an agentic-AI chip rally also lifted Intel 12–13%.

7 Bills

California Data-Center Laws

Gov. Newsom signed seven bills (Sept 21) requiring data centers to pay for grid upgrades and report energy and water use, among other rules.

2 Months

US-China Trade Deal Extended

The Oct 2025 deal pausing new tariffs and curbs was extended during Xi's visit — to Jan 10, 2027 per the US. Chip export controls stay as they are.

AI Chips & GPUs

Chip Stocks Surge on Agentic-AI Bets

Intel jumped 12–13% on Sept 21 as CPU stocks rallied (AMD +9%, Qualcomm +8%) on bets that agentic AI — spurred by Meta's "Muse" agent launched Sept 8 — will lift CPU demand. Intel finished the week up 14.3%. ([CNBC, Sept 21](#))

AMD Tops \$1 Trillion Market Cap for First Time

AMD hit a record intraday high of \$613.92 on Sept 21, up as much as 10%, pushing its market value above \$1 trillion for the first time during a five-session winning streak driven by its AI systems push. ([qz.com, Sept 21](#))

Nvidia Guidance Expects Zero China Sales

Ahead of the Trump-Xi summit, focus turned to Nvidia's Aug 26 guidance of \$108.0B ($\pm 2\%$) for fiscal Q3, which expects no China data-center compute revenue. Hopper shipments to China were under 1% of data-center revenue last quarter. ([The Motley Fool, Sept 22](#))

Fab & Supply Chain

ASML: "Not Selling Anything in Europe At All"

Frank Heemskerk, ASML's head of global public affairs, said the company sells no chipmaking machines in Europe because no new fabs are being built there, while the US, China and India invest. He said the EU Chips Act has failed to spur fabs. ([NL Times, Sept 22](#))

Samsung Reportedly Doubling HBM Output

Industry sources cited by Korean media say Samsung plans to at least double HBM4/HBM4E output in 2027, and its 2nm yields have reportedly topped 60%. Samsung has not confirmed either; HBM4 mass shipments began in February 2026. ([DigiTimes, Sept 21-23](#))

TSMC Partners Certify Tools for A14

At TSMC's OIP Ecosystem Forum in Santa Clara on Sept 23, Synopsys and Cadence announced design-flow certifications for TSMC's next-generation A14 process, and Siemens showed an AI-driven way to fix design-rule violations. ([Synopsys, Sept 23](#))

Consumer Chips

Qualcomm Unveils Two 2nm Flagship Chips

On Sept 22 Qualcomm launched Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 6 and 8 Elite Extreme Gen 6 on a 2nm process. The Extreme adds AI matrix cores and runs 30B+-parameter models on device; nine OEMs including Xiaomi and OPPO plan to adopt them. ([Qualcomm, Sept 22](#))

Qualcomm Plans Linux for Snapdragon X Laptops

Qualcomm said Debian support for Snapdragon X laptops will arrive by end-2026, with Ubuntu on Snapdragon X2 devices in early 2027 — addressing a long-standing gap for developers on Arm-based Windows PCs. ([Android Authority, Sept 23](#))

Qualcomm and Apple Renew Patent License

Qualcomm announced on Sept 24 a renewal of its global patent license with Apple, effective April 1, 2027; term and value were not disclosed. Shares fell 1.5% that day, then rose about 6% on Sept 25. ([Yahoo Finance, Sept 24](#))

Hyperscalers, Data Centers & Energy

California Signs Seven Data-Center Laws

Gov. Newsom signed seven bills on Sept 21 requiring data centers to pay for grid upgrades, share wildfire liability, undergo environmental review, report energy use monthly, assess water supply and pursue on-site clean energy. ([Office of the Governor, Sept 21](#))

Texas Adopts Large-Load Interconnection Rules

Texas regulators adopted large-load rules on Sept 18, dropping a non-refundable fee for refundable \$50,000/MW security plus a \$100,000 study fee. On Sept 21, Gov. Abbott halted data-center permits pending audits due in December. ([Utility Dive, Sept 21](#))

\$68B in Data-Center Projects Blocked or Delayed

Data Center Watch found at least 45 US projects worth \$68B were blocked or delayed by local opposition in Q2 2026, after ~\$130B across 75 projects in Q1. Opposition groups now span 49 states. ([Bloomberg via Insurance Journal, Sept 21](#))

Autonomous Driving & Automotive Chips

Tesla's Austin Fleet Falls to 8 Vehicles

Third-party Robotaxi Tracker data show just 8 active vehicles in a recent week, after a spike above 100 around the Sept 3 Cybercab event. Tesla has 476 vehicles registered in Texas.

(Electrek, Sept 22)

Zoox Halts Atlanta Testing

Zoox stopped testing in Atlanta after safety drivers reported dizziness and nausea in August that ER doctors said was consistent with carbon-monoxide exposure. The cause is unconfirmed; Zoox plans to add gas monitors. (TechCrunch, Sept 23)

Waymo Adds Transit Rewards, Safety Data

Waymo announced a \$2.85 credit for pairing rides with Bay Area transit (public rollout expected in coming weeks) and a company analysis showing 82% fewer injury crashes than human drivers over 270M miles. (Waymo, Sept 22-24)

Chip Startups & Venture

\$918.5M

CanSemi Technology ([Reuters, Sept 23](#))

IPO proceeds: ChiNext IPO priced; listing expected later.

\$27.5M

PicoJool ([PicoJool, Sept 24](#))

Funding raised: Series A for AI optical-link lasers.

\$12M

Nexstrom ([Nexstrom, Sept 22](#))

Funding raised: seed round for 12-inch 2D chips.

\$500M

Cognex – RealSense ([Cognex, Sept 22](#))

Acquisition price: all cash; close expected in Q4.

Undisclosed

Qualcomm – PickNik ([Qualcomm, Sept 23](#))

Acquisition price: maker of MoveIt robotics software.



Industry Deals & Policy

Chip Export Controls Unchanged

USTR Greer said national-security export controls were off the table; the pending MATCH Act could tighten allied chip-tool curbs. ([Korea Times, Sept 27](#))

Trade Deal Extended Two Months

Pauses on tariff hikes and rare-earth curbs from the Oct 2025 deal now run to Jan 10, 2027 (Bessent). Existing tariffs remain. ([Al Jazeera, Sept 24](#))

Readouts Omit Chips

The White House fact sheet lists \$30B-each tariff cuts and coal purchases; neither side mentions semiconductors. ([White House, Sept 25](#))

Tariffs & State Policy

Commerce Curbs Polysilicon Stockpiling

BIS published a temporary final rule on Sept 24 (effective Sept 22, expiring Dec 3) limiting surges in polysilicon imports ahead of Section 232 tariffs due to start Dec 4. ([Federal Register, Sept 24](#))

California Studies an AI "Kill Switch"

Gov. Newsom named four experts to implement his AI executive order, with recommendations expected on a verified emergency shutdown for frontier AI models. ([Office of the Governor, Sept 23](#))



Sources

Company releases (Qualcomm, Synopsys, Cognex, PicoJool, Nexstrom, Waymo), government sources (White House, Federal Register, California Governor), Bloomberg, Reuters, CNBC, TechCrunch, Utility Dive, DigiTimes, Al Jazeera, Korea Times, and others.

Full digest with all article links: [semiconductor-digest-2026-09-27.md](#)