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UICC struggles to find capacity following this month's fab fire

By *Sandy Chen*

HSINCHU, TAIWAN -- After being hit with a major fire in its new 8-inch wafer fab earlier this month, Taiwan's United Integrated Circuits Corp. (UICC) is scrambling to find foundry capacity for its customers.

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After the Oct. 3 blaze--which caused \$416 million worth of damage to UICC's plant and fab equipment (see [Oct. 8 story](#))--the Hsinchu-based foundry had hoped to shift some of its customers to DRAM start-up Nan Ya Technology Corp., based in Taoyuan, Taiwan. But now, UICC has decided to move customers to another local chip maker, Holtek Microelectronics Inc.

UICC's agreement with Nan Ya was scrapped because for competitive reasons--both Nan Ya and UICC's key investor, United Microelectronics Corp. (UMC), make DRAMs, said C. Y. Sha, president of UICC. In addition to UMC, UICC is owned by seven North American chip companies: ATI Technologies, ESS Technology, Integrated Silicon Solution, Lattice Semiconductor, Oak Technology, Opti, and Trident Microsystems. UICC's damaged fab is expected to be out of operations for about one year.

UICC has moves some of its foundry customers to UMC's own 8-inch fabs. Under terms of its deal with Holtek, UICC will have 10,000 wafers per month processed for foundry customers.



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