

SKorea clears chipmakers of cartel charges

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Electronics workers on a microchip assembly line near Seoul. South Korea's anti-trust watchdog has said it has found no evidence that leading chipmakers in South Korea and other countries colluded to fix prices.

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The Fair Trade Commission said it closed a probe into allegations of a cartel operated by 10 makers of static [random access memory](#) (SRAM) chips in [South Korea](#), Japan and the United States.

SRAM chips are used to store data in servers, switches and low-power devices such as mobile phones.

The two South Korean firms were Samsung Electronics, the world's

largest microchip maker, and Hynix [Semiconductor](#).

The probe was launched in October 2006 to find out whether SRAM makers were involved in an international price-fixing scheme.

"We have found no evidence of a conspiracy," Fair Trade Commission regulator Shin Bong-Sam told reporters.

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