

Japan's Panasonic to boost plasma panel output in China

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A model for Japan's electric giant Panasonic introduces its new lineup of plasma and LCD TVs in Tokyo. Panasonic said Friday it will boost its plasma panel production in Shanghai to meet growing demand for flatscreen televisions in China.

Japanese electronics giant Panasonic said Friday it will boost its plasma panel production in Shanghai to meet growing demand for flatscreen televisions in China.

The Chinese unit, [Panasonic Plasma Display](#) (Shanghai) Ltd (PPDS), produces 25,000 42-inch panels a month and will start up a new plant in April 2012 with a monthly capacity for 120,000 42-inch panels, Panasonic said.

Panasonic also said in a press release that it will move plasma panel production equipment from its plant in Amagasaki, western Japan, to help expand the Shanghai unit.

PPDS was established in 2001 by Panasonic and the city of Shanghai.

The expansion of PPDS will give Panasonic "a stronger structure to meet the growing demand in China" and enable the firm to "improve the group-wide cost competitiveness" in the global flatscreen [TV market](#), the statement said.

Panasonic forecast the market to exceed 240 million sets in 2012 with China having the biggest share of more than 50 million sets.

The Osaka-based company is considering changing some of the Amagasaki plant production lines to solar cell manufacturing, Kyodo news agency said, citing company sources.

The Shanghai plant will take on production of 3-D TV panels from 2012 in the wake of the company's launch of a 50-inch 3-D TV in [China](#) earlier this month, Kyodo said.

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