

US tech giant Qualcomm to build new Taiwan plant

January 4 2011



The Lenovo IdeaPad U1, a hybrid laptop that features a detachable slate-style tablet screen, is on display at a trade fair in Las Vegas. US technology giant Qualcomm plans to spend one billion US dollars to build a plant in Taiwan to produce new, energy-efficient displays used in tablet devices and e-books, an official said Tuesday.

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The plant, located in the town of Lungtan in northern Taiwan, is scheduled to start operations in 2012 and will focus on so-called "Mirasol" technology, which consumes less power than traditional displays, the official told AFP.

"The plant is crucial as it will introduce to Taiwan the know-how for manufacturing next-generation flat-screens," said the official, with the economics ministry's Department of Investment Services.

Panels using this type of technology are used in a range of electronic products including Apple's popular [iPad](#) to hand-held games consoles.

Taiwan's liquid crystal display industry is a world leader, with production valued at a total of 1.5 trillion Taiwan dollars (50 billion US) last year, figures compiled by the ministry showed.

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Citation: US tech giant Qualcomm to build new Taiwan plant (2011, January 4) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-01-tech-giant-qualcomm-taiwan.html>

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