

Current Issues

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Asia Pacific

Japan dissolves parliament, setting stage for general election

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Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-dissolve-parliament-setting-stage-general-election-2021-10-14/>

- Tokyo (CNN)Japan's Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida dissolved Parliament's lower house** on Thursday, setting the stage for a **general election this month** as he seeks to rouse support for his newly formed government.
- Local media reports have suggested the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, headed by Kishida, hopes to **take advantage** of the recent nationwide **decline in Covid-19 cases** to **drum up support** for the party.
- The **previous Prime Minister**, Yoshihide Suga, didn't run in his party's leadership race, following a turbulent term marked by a **slump in public support** as he **struggled** to **contain the coronavirus**.

TSMC is building a new chip factory in Japan, but warns of 'tight' supply through 2022

The factory would focus on producing the older chips that have the biggest supply issues

By Chaim Gartenberg | @cgartenberg | Oct 14, 2021, 9:43am EDT

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- TSMC has announced plans to expand its chipmaking efforts with **a new factory in Japan** during its Q3 2021 earnings call, marking the latest expansion for what's already the **world's largest chipmaker**, via Reuters.
- But the news comes as the company also **cautions** that **supply will be “tight” for chips throughout 2022** as a result on the **ongoing shortage**.
- The new plant is planned to focus on producing chips with **older technologies, instead of the bleeding-edge** processors that **TSMC is best known** for providing to companies like **Apple, AMD, Nvidia**, and **Qualcomm**.
- That's particularly important, given that it's those **older chips** — like those found in **cars** for **controlling** the **airbags** and **seatbelts** or the power management chip in an iPhone — that are the ones having the **biggest supply issues**.
- But it'll still be a while before the new fab comes online, with production not **expected to start** until **“late 2024.”**
- TSMC is also still finalizing plans for the new factory, with CEO C.C. Wei noting on the company's earnings call that the new Japan fab still **needs approval** from **TSMC's board**.