

Flash Comment — May 11, 2026

**IT Hardware & Communications Networking
Semiconductors****Intel Foundry (Apple & Hynix), China
Smartphone Exports, NVDA Vera-Rubin
Timing, & More—Headlines (Semis & IT
Hardware)****Our Call**

In an effort to try to keep pace with the rapid news flow across our Semiconductor & IT Hardware universe, we summarize a few of the key headlines we saw this morning.

Initial Thoughts**1. Intel + Apple Partnership News Heats Up - Preliminary Agreement?**

- Intel shares continuing to rally this morning (+6% pre-market) on continued reports of an Apple + Intel Foundry partnership. *Wall Street Journal* reporting that the companies have reached a [preliminary agreement](#) for 'some' Apple-designed SoCs.
- **Key Questions:** **1. What Chips?** Prior reports have pointed to Apple utilizing Intel's 18A-P process node for next-gen M-series (Mac) chips. **2. When?** No indications on timing; we would assume late 2027-2028 timeframe. **3. How Much?** No indications; note that Apple accounted for ~17% of TSMC's 2025 revenue, or ~\$20.7B; Apple falling to #2 customer in 2025 behind NVIDIA (~19% of TSMC's 2025 rev.). Intel's ability to capture ~5% of Apple's TSMC business would equate to ~\$1.0-\$1.2B/annum.

2. SK Hynix Exploring Intel's EMIB Packaging Technology for HBM

- According to *TechPowerUp*, *Wccfttech*, and others, SK Hynix is exploring Intel EMIB 2.5D packaging tech for HBM (likely HBM4E) as a potential alternative to TSMC's CoWoS. The article notes that R&D work is in progress, possibly to enable integration for next-gen HBM4 if AI chip partners decide to leverage Intel Foundry. We note that SK Hynix has not been a widely referenced potential Intel EMIB-T customer.
- See our recent note for deeper look into EMIB - [Intel EMIB-T: Building Confidence in Design Win Announcements Ahead—A Tactical Positive Catalyst Call](#). As noted in our report, we believe investors could consider Intel's EMIB-T design wins at \$1B per annum per customer; favorable operating margin at 30%+ as Intel does not need to make significant additional capacity investments for advanced packaging design wins.

3. Intel & NVIDIA Ongoing Product Collaboration Reaffirmed

- We would highlight a report from *TechPowerUp* ([here](#)) highlighting Intel's reaffirmation of its product partnership with NVIDIA, reaffirming its prior Sept-25 deal. While timing has not been announced, in its Sept-25 deal announcement it was noted Intel & NVIDIA have been working together (via architecture teams) for well over a year.

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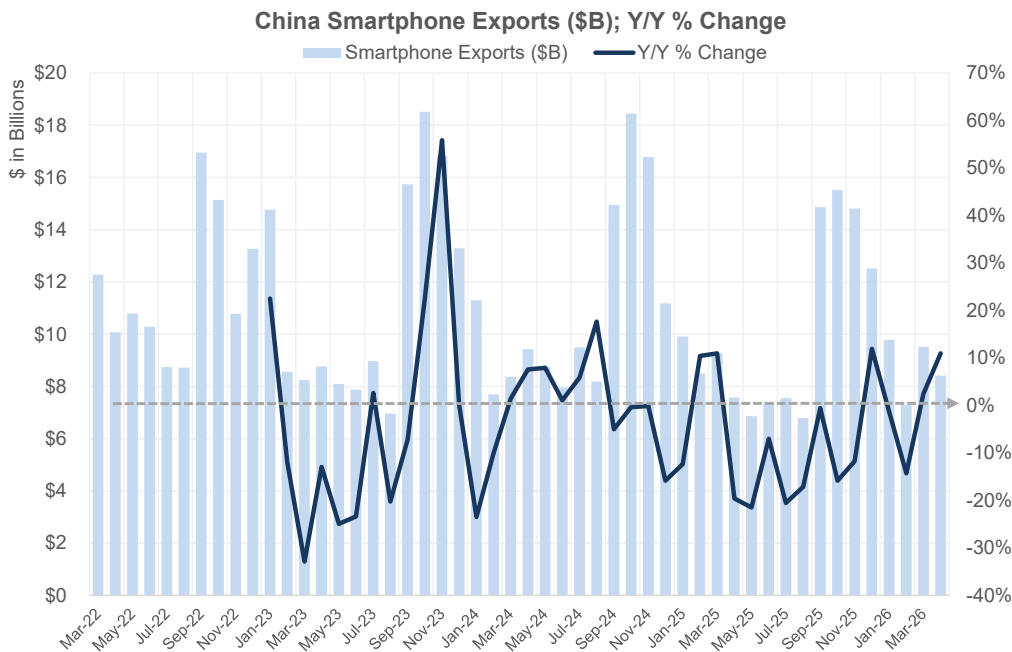
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- As a reminder, the collaboration was initially announced in Sep-25 - **1**, Intel building custom x86 CPUs for NVIDIA that would be integrated into its AI infrastructure platforms leveraging NVLink, and **2**. A partnership in PCs including Intel building x86 SoCs that integrate NVIDIA RTX GPU chiplets and Intel CPUs.
- *Wccftech* reiterates that the NVDA partnership could include an Intel Foundry + Advanced Packaging (EMIB-T?) cooperation - NVDA evaluating Intel 18A and 14A for *Feynman* I/O die + EMIB-T.
- Note: NVIDIA's Sept '25 ~\$5 billion investment in Intel (~214.777M shares @ \$23.28/sh.) now stands at ~\$28.5 billion (+5.4x return) based on today's pre-market INTC share price.

4. China April Smartphone Exports +11% Y/Y, -12% M/M

- We would highlight the recent release of China's preliminary smartphone export data, in which April exports at ~\$8.4B / 53M units were -12% and -6% y/y. April exports (in \$) were -12% m/m, which compares to a -3% average in the prior 5-years. 3-mo ending April exports at \$25.2B are +8% y/y and -32% q/q.



Source: China Customs; Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

5. NVIDIA Vera Rubin Trial Production Set for June, CSP Launch in July

- We would highlight a report from *WccfTech* ([here](#)) reaffirming NVIDIA's *Vera Rubin* launch timeline, with the production version now finalized, trial production set for June, initial CSP shipments in July, and ODM (Foxconn, Wistron, etc) partners to begin full rollout in 2H26.

6. Increasing Potential for Samsung Strike Looms - May 21st in Focus

- Various reports this morning on Samsung's failed negotiations with Employee Union places increased focus on potential looming employee strike. Reports continue to reiterate that if Samsung and the Employee Union cannot come to agreements, then a sizable employee strike could begin next week (May 21st).
- As we have consistently reported over the past several weeks, reports have indicated that Samsung's Employee Union is requesting the company to allocate 15% of its operating profits for bonuses and if an agreement is not reached then as many as 30,000+ employees (majority w/in Samsung's Semi division) could be set to strike from 5/21-6/7.

Other Quick Hits:

- Silicon Motion CEO Warns Memory & SSD Shortages to Drag into 28' | *WccfTech* (see [here](#))
- AI Chip Components Explorer | *EpochAI* (see [here](#))
- Apple Reportedly Keeps 2nm 5G Modem Orders with TSMC Amid Intel Cooperation Signals | *TrendForce* (see [here](#))
- ARM CEO Says Agentic AI May Drive CPU Core Counts to 512 as GPU-CPU Ratios Become Less Relevant | *TrendForce* (see [here](#))

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