

Fast Facts

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Industry Trends

- Migration to outsourced (fabless) model continues
- By 2010, 34% of global wafer production in foundries
- Latin American GDP of almost USD\$1.7 trillion represents one of the world's largest consumer electronics markets

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Silicon Border is a 10,000-acre high-technology science park catering to the semiconductor and flat panel display industries. Located on the border in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico, Silicon Border enables companies to manufacture in North America and effectively compete with Asian operations.

The 400 million dollar park features design advantages of global high-tech business parks and world-class infrastructure to support the stringent requirements of semiconductor manufacturing. The park's 15 square miles will support unfettered growth for more than 20 years.

Global Supply Chain Support

Currently, a very small portion of new semiconductor and flat panel display fab capacity is being installed in the North America while most of the world's new fabs are in Asia. This manufacturing technology is the gating item in the development of leading edge electronic products. The industry feels that concentrating this technology in one location is strategically worse than the current global dependence on limited number oil suppliers.

Establishing a complete technology supply chain in North America provides a much needed "alternative-source". Extending the global supply chain into Mexico will help return North America to the ranks of worldwide high technology manufacturing leadership. Both the U.S. and Mexican parks will generate over 100,000 jobs for both the Imperial Valley and Mexicali. Management and the technical workforce can reside in the U.S. and cross the border to work in the factories until the universities in Mexico can supply the needs of companies that will be locating in the park. Mexico will be creating jobs that decrease the need to immigrate to the U.S.

Strategic Setting

Upon surveying potential sites for critical factors such as human resources, water and electricity, a North American location was selected that matches the Asia cost structure.

Mexicali was determined to be the optimal site because of readily abundant workforce, educational infrastructure and close proximity to the semiconductor industry, including California's Silicon Valley, Orange County, San Diego, Phoenix, Dallas and Austin. As the state capital of Baja California, Mexicali is located on the U.S.-Mexico border less than two hours' drive East on Interstate 8 from San Diego.

The enthusiasm shown by Mexico is demonstrated by their offering competitive tax and other incentives which enable the cost structure to equal what is currently offered in Asia. President Fox stated at a lunch held by Silicon Border that he "will make the initial companies" who located here "an offer they can not refuse"!

University Infrastructure

Mexicali has three universities and has invited other universities in both Mexico and the U.S. to participate in bringing together initiatives to create a curriculum for semiconductor manufacturing and design.