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Southern DAILY

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‘Trump fatigue’ in New Hampshire complicates 2024 White House bid

WEARE, New Hampshire Jan 27 (Reuters) - When Donald Trump trounced his Republican rivals in New Hampshire’s 2016 primary, the stunning win announced to other states the reality TV showman was a serious contender. Trump went on to capture the Republican nomination and then the White House.

But as the former president kicks off his bid to recapture the White House in 2024 with a speech in New Hampshire on Saturday - his first event in an early primary state - he will find the political landscape more treacherous than he did six years ago, according to party activists, members and strategists in the state.

In interviews with 10 New Hampshire Republican Party officials and members, some of whom worked on Trump’s 2016 primary campaign and all of whom have been staunch Trump supporters in the past, Reuters found only three who were sticking with him this time around - including the state chair, an influential Republican figure who is so enthusiastic about Trump he is stepping down on Saturday to help his campaign.

The rest cited exhaustion with Trump’s controversies, exasperation at the constant drama, and a desire to move on from Trump’s loss in 2020 with a fresh face who they thought would have a stronger chance of winning in 2024.

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Trump’s campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

The public souring on the former president is a troubling development for Trump. A defeat could complicate his chances of winning the party nomination for president, analysts say, because New Hampshire often gives a candidate momentum as they head to other primary states.

A lack of enthusiasm for the former president and his prospects for winning in 2024 could hurt Trump because party activists do vital groundwork for candidates, such as knocking on doors and making phone calls to raise money and boost turnout.

Most of the New Hampshire party members who had cooled on Trump said they would prefer Florida Governor Ron DeSantis as the party’s standard bearer, although DeSantis has not yet said if he will launch a White House bid.

“Donald Trump right now is a distraction for the Republican Party in trying to go forward. Donald Trump has run his course,” said Brian Sullivan, 60, a Hillsborough County Republican Committee member who backed Trump in the 2016 primary.

“I would rather see someone else, like Ron DeSantis, in the race,” Sullivan said.

While he likes Trump’s policies and applauds his achievements in office, “he’s got so much baggage. I just don’t think he has what it takes to win the White House again,” Sullivan said.

The three Republicans still backing Trump said his voting base in New Hampshire remains enthusiastic, he has formidable name recognition, and that many Republican voters like his policy achievements while in office, giving him a strong record to run on, unlike other potential candidates.

The Trump campaign, in an email to supporters, touted a Jan. 24 poll from Emerson College Polling showing the former president leading DeSantis nationally among Republican voters, 55% to 29%.

Yet the willingness of Republican party members to criticize Trump in conversations with Reuters is striking. Some Republican party officials and members who have broken with Trump in the past have been subjected to blowback and online trolling from his supporters.

Lori Davis, 67, got into grassroots Republican politics because of Trump. Back in 2015 when he announced his candidacy, she was inspired. She worked on his New Hampshire primary campaign, knocked on doors for him, urged anybody she met to vote for him.

Not this time.

“I like Donald Trump. But he has gone too far polarizing. It’s going to be an uphill battle for him in this primary because of his divisiveness. People are tired of the drama,” Davis said at her home over a meal of burgers.

“I’m seeing that people want DeSantis. He has a lot of the Trump philosophy, but is not as bombastic, he’s not attacking people 24/7. People are tired of that. It gives them headaches,” Davis said.

`PEOPLE WANT A WINNER`

It is not just in New Hampshire where Trump faces potential headwinds. Some billionaire donors who helped fund his previous campaigns have not yet donated. They include hedge fund billionaire Robert Mercer and his daughter, Rebekah Mercer. She has already donated to DeSantis’s political committee.

New Hampshire has an outsize role in choosing presidential candidates because it is the second nominating contest after Iowa’s caucuses.

While the winner of New Hampshire’s Republican primary has not won the state in a general election since George W. Bush in 2000, it is still viewed as a critical test in the nominating process.

Chris Maidment, chairman of the Hillsborough County Republican Committee, described the mood among many members as “Trump fatigue,” adding: “I’m definitely open minded this time round. There’s a lot of exciting potential candidates out there.”
A majority of candidates Trump endorsed in competitive races in November’s congressional elections lost to Democrats. During Trump’s four years as president after his 2016 victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton, Republicans lost control of both chambers of Congress, before he lost the 2020 election to his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden.

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

LOCAL NEWS

Intel's 'historic collapse' erases $8 billion from market value

Jan 27 (Reuters) - Intel Corp (INTC.O) saw about $8 billion wiped off its market value on Friday after the U.S. chipmaker stumped Wall Street with dismal earnings projections, fanning fears around a slump in the personal-computer market.

The company predicted a surprise loss for the first quarter and its revenue forecast was $3 billion below estimates as it also struggled with slowing growth in the data center business.

Intel shares closed 6.4% lower, while rival Advanced Micro Devices (AMD.O) and Nvidia (NVDA.O) ended the session up 0.3% and 2.8%, respectively. Intel supplier KLA Corp (KLAC.O) settled 6.9% lower after its dismal forecast.

"No words can portray or explain the historic collapse of Intel," said Rosenblatt Securities' Hans Mosesmann, who was among the 21 analysts to cut their price targets on the stock.

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The poor outlook underscored the challenges facing Chief Executive Pat Gelsinger as he tries to reestablish Intel's dominance of the sector by expanding contract manufacturing and building new factories in the United States and Europe.

The company has been steadily losing market share to rivals like AMD, which has used contract chipmakers such as Taiwan-based TSMC (2330.TW) to make chips that outpace Intel's technology.

Visitors are seen at the Intel booth during the China Digital Entertainment Expo and Conference, also known as ChinaJoy, in Shanghai
Visitors are seen at the Intel booth during the China Digital Entertainment Expo and Conference, also known as ChinaJoy, in Shanghai, China July 30, 2021. REUTERS/Aly Song

"AMD's Genoa and Bergamo (data center) chips have a strong price-performance advantage compared to Intel's Sapphire Rapids processors, which should drive further AMD share gains," said Matt Wegner, analyst at YipitData.

AMD set to overtake Intel in market cap, again
AMD set to overtake Intel in market cap, again
Analysts said that puts Intel at a disadvantage even when the data center market bottoms out, expected in the second half of 2022, as the company would have lost even more share by then.

"It is now clear why Intel needs to cut so much cost as the company's original plans prove to be fantasy," brokerage Bernstein said.

"The magnitude of the deterioration is stunning, and brings potential concern to the company's cash position over time."

Intel, which plans to cut $3 billion in costs this year, generated $7.7 billion in cash from operations in the fourth quarter and paid dividends of $1.5 billion.

With capital expenditure estimated to be around $20 billion in 2023, analysts said the company should consider cutting its dividend.

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Editor's Choice

Medics from the First Volunteer Mobile Hospital unit treat soldiers transported from the frontlines, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in the Donbas region of the Ukraine. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

Trees are covered in snow in front of The Elizabeth Tower, more commonly known as Big Ben, as cold weather continues, in London. REUTERS/Toby Melville

A view of the Palace of Westminster seen from the London Eye, in London, Britain. REUTERS/Maja Smiejkowska

Police secures the area after 25 suspected members and supporters of a far-right group were detained during raids across Germany, in Berlin, Germany, December 7. REUTERS/Christian Mang

A swimmer dips her feet in Serpentine lake, as cold weather continues, in London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls

Ukrainian service members are seen in Bakhmut, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Yevhen Titov

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

Taiwan Semiconductor Is Investing $40 Billion In The State Of Arizona To Boost World Chip Production

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

A lab technician holds a large circular disc silicon wafer that Taiwan Semiconductor will start producing in 2024 at their Arizona facility. (Image source: Getty Images.)

KEY POINTS

Taiwan Semiconductor will be investing $40 billion in the state of Arizona to boost world chip production.

The numbers are big, but the two new Arizona facilities will be a drop in the global chip production bucket.

There's plenty of worry out there about what would happen to the global economy if China ever made a more aggressive military push to take back the island of Taiwan. Amid this worry, many companies and government organizations have been pushing Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing (TSM -1.14%) -- far and away the largest chip foundry on the planet and a recent addition to Warren Buffett's stock portfolio -- to diversify production into other countries.

But as things turned out, Taiwan Semi has just announced a second fab (a chip manufacturing facility) in the state of Arizona, over a year before its first facility there is complete. The total investment in the two fabs will be in the ballpark of $40 billion.

This sounds like fantastic news for Taiwan Semi, as well as for chip designers Apple and Nvidia, which will be among the first customers of the new fabs down in the southwestern desert. But two lesser-known names could be the best way for investors to profit: Applied Materials and ASML Holding.

Lots of silicon, but a lot of equipment needed to fill a fab first

Taiwan Semi said its first fab will begin cranking out silicon wafers in 2024, using an enhanced version of its 5-nanometer manufacturing technology (the nanometers referring to the size of the transistors within a chip, with smaller sizes representing more powerful chips). The second fab will start production in 2026 using 3-nanometer tech. Together, the company said it could produce 600,000 silicon wafers a year at max capacity.

For reference, Taiwan Semi's 5-nm and 3-nm manufacturing processes create 300-millimeter wafers (just shy of 12 inches in diameter). Each wafer thus has 113 square inches of surface area (high school geometry here: π x 6" radius squared), meaning Taiwan Semi could produce nearly 68 million square inches of silicon wafers every year. Sound like a lot? It is. But bear in mind some 14.7 billion square inches of wafers will be shipped in 2022 alone (according to industry association SEMI). That number is expected to increase by about a mid-single-digit percentage over the next few years.

At any rate, though Taiwan Semi's $40 billion investment will add little to the total global chip production capacity, it's still an incredibly high-value project. These days, the most advanced chips require incredibly complex manufacturing equipment to produce. That's where Applied Materials and ASML come in. As Taiwan Semi constructs its two new fabs, it will be filling up those facilities with advanced machinery from its longtime partners Applied and ASML, with some pieces of equipment (specifically, ASML's extreme ultraviolet lithography machines) costing a couple hundred million dollars apiece.

In other words, new fabs like the ones being built in the Grand Canyon State mean more growth for Applied Materials and ASML now while Taiwan Semi shareholders wait for that new output to go live.

Another boom in chip demand is coming

In 2022, global chip sales (the actual end product, not the wafers themselves) are expected to be around $600 billion. That's up from just over $400 billion in 2019 before the pandemic. The booming demand for silicon-based devices isn't going away anytime soon, though. Analyst and industry estimates now point toward global chip sales surpassing $1 trillion no later than 2030.

It won't be a straight-uphill growth trend. For example, the value of chips sold is expected to dip slightly in 2023. However, big-ticket consumer goods like automobiles and home appliances are joining the digital era and will look a lot more like your smartphone in the coming years. Something similar is happening in the industrial world, where equipment of all sorts is getting hooked up to a network connection. 5G network infrastructure construction is ongoing, as are data center build-outs to support artificial intelligence and other high-end computing in the cloud.

Besides supporting new fabs in Arizona, Applied Materials and ASML will also be involved in the construction of other sites like Intel's planned mega-fab in Ohio. Dozens of other facilities, like the other 17 fabs that Taiwan Semi owns in Taiwan and China (and one small fab in Washington state), will also need upgrades. Fab equipment also gets old and needs replacing, which also means ongoing sales for Applied and ASML, not to mention ongoing service and software fees.

Taiwan Semi, Intel, and others will get some government assistance via legislation like the U.S. CHIPS Act during this boom in capital spending. However, it remains unknown how profitable these companies will be along the way -- or how profitable they'll be once this boom is all said and done.

Fab equipment sales, though, tout high margins and cost what they cost, regardless of consumer and business end-demand for chips (which impact manufacturer profit margins). As these machines get more complex, the price tag on them goes up too, which is boosting Applied's and ASML's margins. (Courtesy https://www.fool.com/investing/2022/12/09/taiwan-semiconductors-arizona-fab-could-mean-big-w/)

Related

TSMC To Produce 3-Nanometer Chips At Its Arizona Factory

(Image: Getty Images)

TSMC founder Morris Chang said today that the semiconductor giant and Apple supplier will build 3-nanometer chips at its factory in Arizona, though final plans are not ready yet. The factory is currently under construction, with plans to begin production in 2024.

During a press conference in Taipei, Chang said "three-nanometer, TSMC right now has a plan, but it has not been completely finalized," Reuters reports. "It has almost been finalized— in the same Arizona site, phase two. Five-nanometer is phase one, 3-nanometer is phase two."

On its website, TSMC says its 3-nanometer tech, called N3, will be a full node stride from its 5-nanometer technology and will offer up to 70% logic density gain, up to 15% speed improvement at the same power, and up to 30% power reduction at the same speed when compared to its predecessor. It is targeting volume technology in the second half of this year.

The world's largest foundry, TSMC makes almost half of the world's most advanced chips. The dominance of Taiwan's semiconductor companies (TSMC's peers include Foxconn) is one of its major advantages against China, which considers Taiwan a province, but as worldwide chip shortages stymie the production of electronics, it also calls into question the supply chain's reliance.

TSMC's Arizona factory, along with a second one that is reportedly in the planning stages, is part of the Biden administration's strategy to bolster U.S. chipmaking. TSMC is also building a factory in Japan and is in talks with the German government to build another one in that country.

Other foundries working on 3-nanometer chips include Samsung Electronics, which started producing 3-nanometer chips in June, ahead of TSMC. The South Korean tech giant is producing 3-nanometer chips at its Hwaseong and Pyeongtaek semiconductor facilities. Samsung said last year it would invest 171 trillion KRW ($132 billion) in its logic chip and foundry business by 2030, and it is also building a semiconductor plant in Texas. (https://techcrunch.com/2022/11/20/tsmc-3-nanometer-arizona/)

Related

Taiwan Semiconductor Plans to Build Second Factory at Its Phoenix Site

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. says it has started construction on a second semiconductor chip plant in Phoenix. Combined with another under-construction plant nearby, the company says it will have invested $40 billion in the projects.

More than 10,000 construction workers would be involved in building the plants, known as "fabs," TSMC says. Work on the first plant is being led by a joint venture of Dallas-based Austin Commercial and Houston-based CTCI Americas Inc. Neither the contractors nor TSMC immediately responded to inquiries about the team for the second fab.

The first fab is expected to begin production in 2024 and feature 4-nanometer process technology, even more advanced than the 5-nm process that was originally planned. The second fab would feature 3-nm process technology and is slated to come online in 2026. Once completed, the fabs would produce more than 600,000 wafers per year, TSMC says.

TSMC's Phoenix fabs would produce more than 600,000 wafers per year once they begin production, the company says. (Photo courtesy of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.)

TSMC is also in planning stages to build an on-site industrial water reclamation plant, the company announced Dec. 6. The plant would allow the plants to achieve "near zero liquid discharge."

President Biden traveled to Phoenix Dec. 6 to speak about the TSMC projects and other manufacturing projects that have benefited from U.S. government spending packages like the Chips and Science Act, which allocated $39 billion to boost semiconductor chip manufacturing construction in addition to other incentives. Biden touted the projects as an example of manufacturing returning to the U.S. and strengthening the supply chain. Other tech manufacturers are also in the midst of U.S. fab projects, including Micron with a plant outside Syracuse, N.Y. and Intel in central Ohio.

Biden was joined at the event by executives from some of TSMC's supplier and customer companies, including Apple CEO Tim Cook.

"These are the most advanced semiconductor chips on the planet—chips that will power iPhones and MacBooks, as Tim Cook can attest," Biden said. "Apple had to buy all the advanced chips overseas. Now they're going to bring more of their supply chain here at home." (Courtesy https://www.enr.com/articles/55518-taiwan-semiconductor-plans-to-build-second-fab-at-phoenix-site)

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Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

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