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US Introduces MATCH Act to Restrict China's Access to Advanced Chipmaking Technology

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The United States has introduced the MATCH Act (Multilateral Alignment of Technology Controls on Hardware Act) to restrict China's access to critical semiconductor manufacturing equipment, especially tools required for producing advanced AI chips.

Key Highlights

The MATCH Act aims to impose strict export controls on chipmaking tools supplied to China.

It targets advanced semiconductor manufacturing equipment, including lithography machines.

The bill proposes country-wide restrictions, not just company-specific bans.

It also restricts maintenance, servicing, and technical support for such equipment.

Major Chinese firms like Huawei, SMIC, and YMTC are specifically targeted.

Objective of the Act

To limit China's capability to produce advanced semiconductors

To maintain the US technological dominance in AI and chip manufacturing

To prevent use of such technologies for military and strategic purposes

To ensure coordination with allies like Japan and the Netherlands

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Key Provisions

- Ban on export of “chokepoint” semiconductor manufacturing tools
- Expansion of restrictions to services and upgrades of existing machines
- Inclusion of all facilities of targeted Chinese companies under restrictions
- Push for uniform export controls among allied countries

Background & Context

- Semiconductor technology is central to AI, defence systems, and modern electronics
- Only a few countries—USA, Japan, and the Netherlands—dominate advanced chipmaking tools.
- The US has already imposed restrictions on advanced AI chips, and this Act targets the production equipment itself
- China is actively working towards self-reliance in semiconductor manufacturing

Additional Key Facts:

- Semiconductors (Chips)
- Core components in devices like smartphones, computers, and defence systems
- Crucial for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and high-performance computing

Lithography Technology

- Used to print circuits on silicon wafers
- Types: EUV (Extreme Ultraviolet) and DUV (Deep Ultraviolet)

Geopolitical Importance

- Chip supply chains are a major part of US–China strategic competition
- Export controls are used as a tool of economic and technological diplomacy