

Ask The Analyst

Question 8:

Following up on your answer to the previous question about the 2010 capacity spend, surely upgrading capacity mean more ICs per wafer due to die shrinks therefore there will be a significant growth in the IC production capacity?

Answer:

At the individual device level this is absolutely true but the other side of the coin is we use the availability of reduced line width geometries to make more complex ICs. The two effects actually net each other out – over time the average number of ICs per wafer start is pretty constant as is the average chip size. “What the technology giveth away with the one hand it takes away with the other”.