

ITRI — Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute and the Origins of TSMC

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Taiwan

Quality score: 62/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Taiwan's ITRI, a non-profit applied-research institute founded in 1973, transferred RCA semiconductor technology into two direct spin-offs — UMC (1980) and TSMC (1987, with 98 transferred professionals) — and TSMC grew into the world's largest dedicated chip foundry.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	0/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

[Industrial Technology Research Institute \(ITRI\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

[Wikipedia — Industrial Technology Research Institute](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

[ITRI 50th Anniversary — The Birth of Taiwan's Semiconductor Industry](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

[Asterisk Mag — The Institute Behind Taiwan's Chip Dominance](#) — accessed 2026-07-24

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