# Morgan Stanley | RESEARCH

May 5, 2025 09:00 PM GMT

# Greater China Semiconductors | Asia Pacific

# PC Semis: Take profits postshare price rebound

We believe weaker IT budget growth in China, lower order pull-in post 2Q and potential AI PC delays could drive weaker 2H. The near-term share price rebound may end post Computex in late May. Stay cautious on all PC semi stocks.

# alphawise α

# **Key Takeaways**

- China CIOs posted worst-ever expectations on YoY IT budget growth. PC remains in the lowest 5 categories increasing spending.
- Post-tariff hikes, IT spending growth expectations from China CIOs dropped to 2% from 6% pre-tariff.
- 2Q PC semis pull-in demand remains strong for most components, but companies are turning conservative in 2H.
- We also notice the potential for new AI PC platform delays.

Similar to our conservative US CIO survey, China CIOs posted cautious views on near-term spending in our 1H25 survey: According to the survey, China CIOs' 2025 IT budget growth expectations fell to 5.8%, down 140bps from 2H24. Post-tariffs, IT spending growth expectations dropped to 2% from 6% pre-tariff. The survey indicated that 43% of CIOs expected further downward revisions post-tariffs vs. 31% pre-tariff. PC remains among the lowest 5 categories to see spending increases (Exhibits 1-5).

**PC** semis companies turning more conservative on 2H inventory build: In view of macro/policy uncertainties, we maintain our view that most PC customers were still building inventory in 2Q. That said, we believe PC semis companies are now turning more conservative on the 2H outlook. This is because customers would like to keep a leaner inventory going into 3Q, given uncertainty on policies and end demand.

Will new AI PC drive demand upside in 2H? Parade expects (link) the new high TOPS AI PC platform to be announced during Computex in late May, with multiple OEMs prepared for this. That said, we believe customers are less aggressive on inventory preparation, which is in contrast to when Snapdragon X Elite was announced in mid-2024.

**Stock implications - stay cautious on all PC semis:** The key investor debate remains on ASMedia, as the company is benefitting from key customer share gains (see Joe Moore's Intel note). Our EW thesis on the stock is based on multiple derating factors, such as new business competition (PCIE switch) and a macro slow down. We believe UW-rated Realtek could see Q/Q revenue growth in 2Q, but this is likely to be more muted in 2H. We maintain our EW rating on Elan and our UW

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#### **GREATER CHINA TECHNOLOGY SEMICONDUCTORS**

#### Asia Pacific

Industry View In-Line

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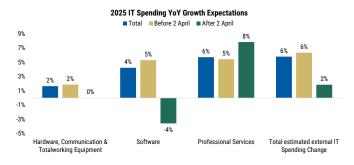
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rating on Parade.

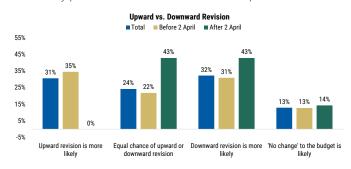
# Key charts from China CIO survey

**Exhibit 1:** 2025 YoY IT budget spending expectations decreased to 2% vs. 6% pre-tariff



Source: AlphaWise, Morgan Stanley Research

**Exhibit 2:** 43% of CIOs believed that downward revision is more likely post-tariff announcement vs. 31% pre-tariff

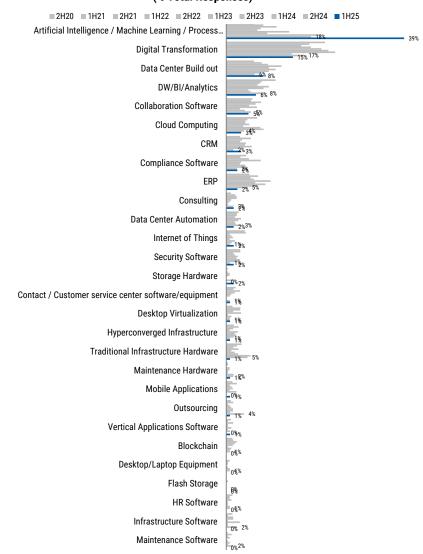


Source: AlphaWise, Morgan Stanley Research

Exhibit 3:

Top CIO Spending Priorities for 2025

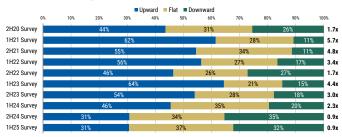
# China CIOs Survey: Projects with Largest Increase in Spend (% Total Responses)



Source: AlphaWise, Morgan Stanley Research

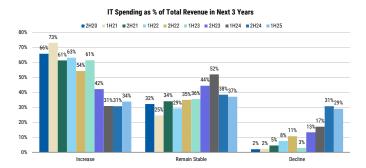
**Exhibit 4:** Up-to-down ratio remain flat at 0.9x

#### **Expectations of Potential IT Budget Revisions This Year**



Source: AlphaWise, Morgan Stanley Research

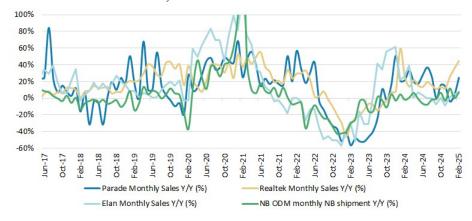
**Exhibit 5:** Long-term spending growth expectations improved marginally



Source: AlphaWise, Morgan Stanley Research

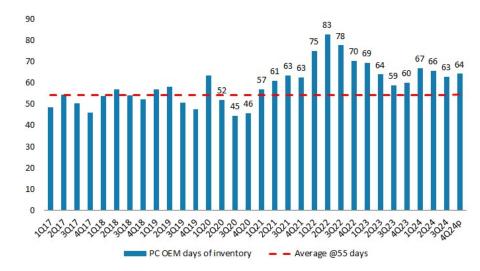
# Risks in PC Semis Supply Chain

**Exhibit 6:** PC semis monthly revenue Y/Y vs. NB ODM monthly NB shipments Y/Y - We are concerned on inventory overbuild



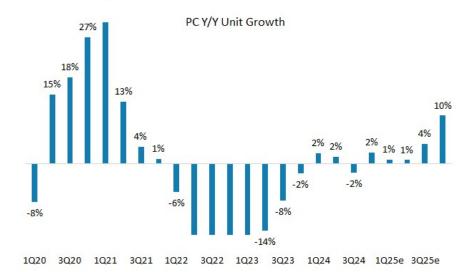
Source: TEJ, Morgan Stanley Research

Exhibit 7: PC OEM average inventory days - still at a high level



Source: Bloomberg, TEJ, Morgan Stanley Research

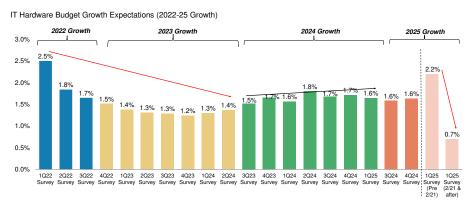
**Exhibit 8:** Quarterly PC units Y/Y



Source: IDC, Morgan Stanley Research (e) estimates

# 1Q25 US CIO Survey Macro Flash Takeaways

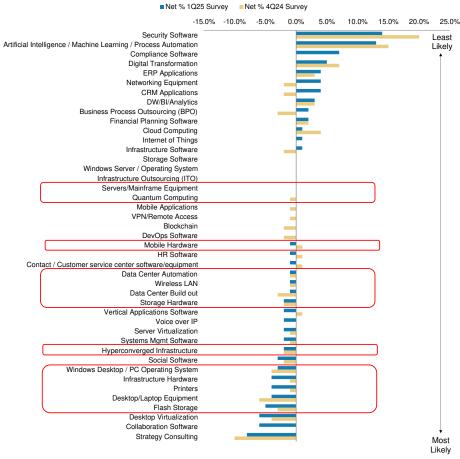
**Exhibit 9:** Prior to the market downturn on February 21, CIO hardware budget growth expectations were tracking at 2.2% Y/Y in 2025, up from 1.6% Y/Y in 2024; however, for CIOs surveyed after February 21, 2025, hardware growth expectations deteriorated meaningfully, down to 0.7% Y/Y



Source: AlphaWise CIO Survey (n=100), Morgan Stanley Research

**Exhibit 10:** CIOs in our 1Q25 survey cite effectively every hardware-centric project as most likely to be cut if the economy worsens





Source: AlphaWise n=100 (US and EU data), Morgan Stanley Research

# Valuation Methodology and Risks

## Realtek Semiconductor (2379.TW)

Base-case, residual income model. We assume a cost of equity of 9.6%, an intermediate growth rate of 6.3%, payout ratio of 79% and terminal growth rate of 4.5%.

#### **Risks to Upside**

- Stronger-than-expected Wi-Fi growth.
- Faster-than-expected new product growth.
- Faster-than-expected adoption for auto Ethernet.
- Fading PC semi inventory corrections.

#### **Risks to Downside**

- Weaker-than-expected Wi-Fi growth.
- Slower-than-expected new product growth.
- Slower-than-expected margin recovery given ongoing pricing competition.
- Further TV SoC project losses in China.
- Slower-than-expected adoption for auto Ethernet.

### Elan Microelectronics Corp (2458.TW)

Residual income. We assume a cost of equity of 9.6%, an intermediate growth rate of 5.0%, payout ratio of 80% and terminal growth rate of 4.5%.

# **Risks to Upside**

- Notebook shipments stronger than expected.
- AI PCs help content growth in notebook peripheral ICs.
- e-book controller IC ramps up faster then expected.

### **Risks to Downside**

- Notebook replacement cycle extents, shipments lower than expected.
- No spec upgrade in notebook peripheral ICs in AI PC era.
- No progress in e-book controller IC.

#### Parade Technologies Ltd (4966.TWO)

Base case, residual income model. Key assumptions: cost of equity (beta 1.3, risk-free rate 2%, risk premium 6%) of 9.8%, medium-term growth rate of 6.5% and terminal growth rate of 4.0%.

#### **Risks to Upside**

- Faster-than-expected Apple product shipments and spec upgrades.
- Faster-than-expected launch of next-gen server platform.
- US tariffs alleviate.

# **Risks to Downside**

■ Slower-than-expected Apple product shipments and spec upgrades.

- Intensifying competition in high-speed interface area for converters, switches, redrivers/retimers.
- Slower-than-expected launch of next-gen server platform.

# **ASMedia Technology Inc (5269.TW)**

Base case, residual income model. Key assumptions: cost of equity of 9.8% (beta 1.3, risk-free rate 2% and risk premium 6%), medium-term growth rate of 8.0%, payout ratio of 75% and terminal growth rate of 5.2%.

## **Risks to Upside**

- AMD gains market share thanks to better-than-expected performance.
- In-house designed products grow faster than expected.
- US-China tensions improve and US tariffs alleviate.

#### **Risks to Downside**

- AMD cannot get substrate supply, causing earnings downside for ASMedia.
- Intel adopts TSMC's technologies more aggressively to compete with AMD.
- Spec migration on USB 4 is slower.



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(as of April 30, 2025)

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Not-Rated/Hold	3	0%	0	0%	0%	1	0%
Underweight/Sell	603	16%	76	9%	13%	229	13%
Total	3,774		828			1717	

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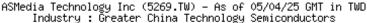
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Stock Rating History: 5/1/20 : 0/I; 3/11/21 : E/I; 4/12/21 : U/I; 5/14/21 : 0/I; 10/12/21 : 0/C; 10/4/22 : 0/A; 2/22/23 : 0/I; 5/30/23 : E/I; 7/7/23 : E/A; 1/23/24 : 0/A; 7/21/24 : 0/I; 4/8/25 : E/I

Price Target History: 2/12/20 : 1069; 5/14/20 : 1222; 5/28/20 : 1460; 6/23/20 : 2020; 8/13/20 : 2220; 11/9/20 : 2300; 3/11/21 : 1500; 4/12/21 : 1000; 5/14/21 : 1300; 6/8/21 : 1800; 8/10/21 : 2300; 10/8/21 : 2000; 4/8/22 : 2400; 6/6/22 : 2050; 7/12/22 : 1350; 8/8/22 : 1250; 9/13/22 : 1000; 10/18/22 : 818; 2/22/23 : 1175; 3/30/23 : 1320; 5/30/23 : 1240; 7/21/23 : 1030; 8/9/23 : 909; 11/9/23 : 1200; 1/23/24 : 2170; 2/26/24 : 2585; 5/9/24 : 2200; 6/25/24 : 2800; 9/15/24 : 2000; 11/14/24 : 2200; 1/13/25 : 2350; 2/10/25 : 2600; 4/8/25 : 1415

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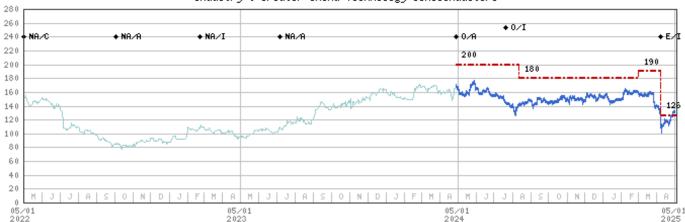
Stock Ratings: Overweight (O) Equal-weight (E) Underweight (U) Not-Rated (NR) No Rating Available (NA)

Industry View: Attractive (A) In-line (I) Cautious (C) No Rating (NR)

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Stock Rating History: 5/1/20 : NA/I; 10/12/21 : NA/C; 10/4/22 : NA/A; 2/22/23 : NA/I; 7/7/23 : NA/A; 4/29/24 : 0/A; 7/21/24 : 0/I; 4/8/25 : E/I

Price Target History: 4/29/24 : 200; 8/12/24 : 180; 3/2/25 : 190; 4/8/25 : 126

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Price Target History: 4/30/20 : 888; 5/28/20 : 1130; 7/6/20 : 1295; 7/31/20 : 1500; 2/4/21 : 1555; 4/28/21 : 1700; 8/5/21 : 2120; 2/9/22 : 2215; 7/12/22 : 1150; 8/3/22 : 870; 9/13/22 : 717; 10/7/22 : 960; 10/31/22 : 825; 2/22/23 : 1125; 3/30/23 : 1200; 4/26/23 : 1140; 5/30/23 : 1115; 7/21/23 : 911; 8/9/23 : 822; 11/1/23 : 885; 1/23/24 : 1280; 4/23/24 : 999; 6/4/24 : 666; 4/8/25 : 445; 4/24/25 : 440

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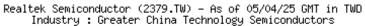
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Stock Ratings: Overweight (O) Equal-weight (E) Underweight (U) Not-Rated (NR) No Rating Available (NA)

Industry View: Attractive (A) In-line (I) Cautious (C) No Rating (NR)

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Stock Rating History: 5/1/20 : 0/I; 10/12/21 : 0/C; 2/24/22 : E/C; 10/4/22 : E/A; 12/13/22 : U/A; 2/22/23 : 0/I; 7/7/23 : 0/A; 7/21/24 : 0/I; 9/15/24 : U/I

Price Target History: 3/20/20 : 260; 5/28/20 : 295; 6/17/20 : 322; 7/3/20 : 377; 7/22/20 : 422; 8/6/20 : 520; 11/10/20 : 566; 3/5/21 : 600; 4/23/21 : 666; 5/20/21 : 606; 7/26/21 : 666; 10/12/21 : 566; 2/24/22 : 505; 4/22/22 : 450; 7/12/22 : 333; 7/28/22 : 350; 9/13/22 : 313; 10/28/22 : 244; 12/13/22 : 239; 2/22/23 : 450; 5/30/23 : 433; 7/21/23 : 490; 10/23/23 : 470; 1/23/24 : 520; 2/1/24 : 540; 2/23/24 : 616; 3/11/24 : 707; 9/15/24 : 420; 1/14/25 : 425; 2/18/25 : 475

Source: Morgan Stanley Research Date Format: MM/DD/YY Price Target -- No Price Target Assigned (NA)
Stock Price (Not Covered by Current Analyst) -- Stock Price (Covered by Current Analyst) -Stock and Industry Ratings (abbreviations below) appear as + Stock Rating/Industry View

Stock Ratings: Overweight (O) Equal-weight (E) Underweight (U) Not-Rated (NR) No Rating Available (NA) Industry View: Attractive (A) In-line (I) Cautious (C) No Rating (NR)

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# **INDUSTRY COVERAGE: Greater China Technology Semiconductors**

COMPANY (TICKER)	RATING (AS OF)	PRICE* (05/02/2025)
Charlie Chan		
ACM Research Inc (ACMR.O)	0 (03/07/2023)	US\$19.93
Advanced Micro-Fabrication Equipment Inc (688012.SS)	0 (11/06/2023)	Rmb188.26
Advanced Wireless Semiconductor Co (8086.TWO)	E (10/24/2024)	NT\$75.00
Alchip Technologies Ltd (3661.TW)	O (05/14/2021)	NT\$2,300.00
Andes Technology Corp (6533.TW)	O (08/04/2022)	NT\$292.00
ASE Technology Holding Co. Ltd. (3711.TW)	O (09/15/2024)	NT\$139.00
Global Unichip Corp (3443.TW)	0 (07/27/2024)	NT\$1,085.00
GlobalWafers Co Ltd (6488.TWO)	E (02/22/2023)	NT\$313.00
Gudeng Precision (3680.TWO)	O (08/27/2024)	NT\$372.00
Hua Hong Semiconductor Ltd (1347.HK)	O (06/13/2024)	HK\$36.35
King Yuan Electronics Co Ltd (2449.TW)	O (03/03/2023)	NT\$87.30
M31 Technology Corp (6643.TWO)	E (09/23/2024)	NT\$535.00
Maxscend Microelectronics Co Ltd (300782.SZ)	U (01/11/2021)	Rmb74.85
MediaTek (2454.TW)	0 (09/12/2023)	NT\$1,300.00
Nanya Technology Corp. (2408.TW)	U (11/06/2023)	NT\$35.65
NAURA Technology Group Co Ltd (002371.SZ)	0 (11/06/2023)	Rmb450.96
Phison Electronics Corp (8299.TWO)	O (03/11/2025)	NT\$454.50
SG Micro Corp. (300661.SZ)	O (06/17/2024)	Rmb100.92
Silergy Corp. (6415.TW)	O (02/13/2025)	NT\$411.50
SMIC (0981.HK)	E (04/09/2025)	HK\$47.50
TSMC (2330.TW)	0 (02/07/2022)	NT\$950.00
UMC (2303.TW)	E (10/28/2024)	NT\$45.65
Vanguard International Semiconductor (5347.TWO)	U (08/05/2024)	NT\$89.80
Will Semiconductor Co Ltd Shanghai (603501.SS)	E (10/28/2024)	Rmb131.58
WIN Semiconductors Corp (3105.TWO)	0 (06/28/2024)	NT\$88.50
Daisy Dai, CFA		
ASMPT Ltd (0522.HK)	E (11/20/2024)	HK\$53.40
China Resources Microelectronics Limited (688396.SS)	U (09/02/2024)	Rmb46.07
Elan Microelectronics Corp (2458.TW)	E (04/08/2025)	NT\$131.00
Empyrean Technology Co Ltd (301269.SZ)	E (01/17/2025)	Rmb119.19
Hangzhou Silan Microelectronics Co. Ltd. (600460.SS)	E (04/09/2024)	Rmb25.02

JCET Group Co Ltd (600584.SS)	U (09/25/2024)	Rmb33.43
Shanghai Anlogic Infotech Co Ltd (688107.SS)	E (05/14/2024)	Rmb27.34
Shanghai Fudan Microelectronics (1385.HK)	O (03/07/2025)	HK\$27.95
SICC Co Ltd (688234.SS)	O (09/18/2023)	Rmb58.08
StarPower Semiconductor Ltd (603290.SS)	O (03/01/2022)	Rmb82.45
Unigroup Guoxin Microelectronics Co Ltd (002049.SZ)	U (01/10/2023)	Rmb63.98
Universal Scientific Ind. (Shanghai) (601231.SS)	E (10/23/2024)	Rmb13.83
Yangjie Technology (300373.SZ)	O (06/10/2022)	Rmb48.35
Daniel Yen, CFA		
AP Memory Technology Corp (6531.TW)	E (09/15/2024)	NT\$242.50
ASMedia Technology Inc (5269.TW)	E (04/08/2025)	NT\$1,780.00
Aspeed Technology (5274.TWO)	E (09/15/2024)	NT\$3,150.00
Egis Technology Inc (6462.TWO)	E (03/26/2024)	NT\$98.40
Espressif Systems (688018.SS)	O (05/15/2023)	Rmb218.00
GigaDevice Semiconductor Beijing Inc (603986.SS)	E (01/22/2025)	Rmb128.69
Macronix International Co Ltd (2337.TW)	U (10/19/2021)	NT\$20.00
Montage Technology Co Ltd (688008.SS)	O (11/08/2023)	Rmb76.82
Novatek (3034.TW)	O (03/18/2024)	NT\$515.00
Nuvoton Technology Corporation (4919.TW)	O (10/29/2024)	NT\$68.80
Parade Technologies Ltd (4966.TWO)	U (06/04/2024)	NT\$543.00
Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (6770.TW)	E (06/13/2024)	NT\$14.25
Realtek Semiconductor (2379.TW)	U (09/15/2024)	NT\$505.00
Shenzhen Goodix Technology Co Ltd (603160.SS)	E (06/12/2024)	Rmb70.27
Sino Wealth Electronic (300327.SZ)	U (03/31/2025)	Rmb21.73
Winbond Electronics Corp (2344.TW)	O (03/11/2025)	NT\$15.95
WPG Holdings (3702.TW)	E (11/16/2023)	NT\$68.40
Duan Liu		
Dosilicon Co Ltd (688110.SS)	U (09/06/2024)	Rmb31.25
Shenzhen Longsys Electronics Co Ltd (301308.SZ)	O (03/11/2025)	Rmb77.91
Tiffany Yeh		
AllRing Tech Co. (6187.TWO)	O (08/27/2024)	NT\$269.00
FOCI Fiber Optic Communications Inc (3363.TWO)	O (01/15/2025)	NT\$191.00
Silicon Motion (SIMO.0)	O (05/06/2024)	US\$53.51

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