

Work starts on Fujitsu's

By ERIC GORANSON

of The Oregonian staff

10-9-87

GRESHAM — Thirty-five months of waiting ended Thursday as Fujitsu Microelectronics Inc. finally broke ground for its long-announced Gresham semiconductor manufacturing plant.

Earth movers roared in the background, balloons soared skyward and champagne flowed freely as Taro Okabe, Fujitsu executive vice president, headed a six-man earth-breaking ceremony for the \$70 million plant.

The toast-filled event, complete with a chauffeur-driven limousine for the top dignitaries and chef Ruben Martinez on hand to serve pastries to a crowd of about 70 people, took place on a portion of a 200-acre site north of Southeast Stark Street between Northeast 202nd and 223rd avenues.

Okabe said the plant would cover 100,000 square feet and employ 350 within the next two years. Hiring of the initial work force will begin next summer, and some of the people will be sent to Japan for training, he said. Okabe was uncertain on how many Japanese managers would oversee the plant's operation but said there would be about 10 initially.

Fujitsu first told Gresham officials it would build here in November 1984.

"We are here today to celebrate and commemorate not only the beginnings of this facility, but also the beginning of what we hope will be a long and prosperous relationship among Fujitsu, the city of Gresham and state of Oregon," Okabe said. "Our plans are to begin recruiting



Dignitaries toast the \$70 million semiconductor plant that Fujitsu Microelectronics Inc. is building in Northwest Gresham. From left are Taro Okabe, Fujitsu executive vice president; Dick Romano, Fujitsu

Start of Fujitsu's cons

by SUSAN ROMANITIS
of The Outlook staff

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Executives from Fujitsu Microelectronics Inc., including Taro Okabe, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Fujitsu's corporate office in Santa Clara, Calif., and business people, dignitaries and elected officials from the Gresham community, including Gresham Mayor Larry Deyo, took part in the event.

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Staff photo by Steve Gibbons

Taro Okabe, Socrates Christopher, Larry Deyo and Richard "Dick" Reiten toast Fujitsu's plans.

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Gresham, Oregon

4 Sections, 42 Pages - 25 cents

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Noise, dust bring concern

by BARBARA BROWER
of The Outlook staff

While most of the Gresham community is welcoming the start of construction at the Fujitsu Microelectronics plant, some neighbors of the plant are concerned about dust and noise during construction.

The recent unseasonably dry and warm weather may be helping construction crews get off to a fast start, but it also has created dusty conditions for the residents of Conifer Park.

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time of year, have started to whip up and blow around dirt being moved to make way for the new facility.

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"I don't think there's anything that can be done about it. We'll just have to put up with it. I'll be glad when the construction is finished," she said.

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Turn to FUJITSU, Page 4A.

Turn to NEIGHBORS, Page 4A.

Fujitsu land: From

by SCOTT MAGUIRE
of The Outlook staff

Workers are scheduled to begin excavating this spring for the Fujitsu Microelectronics plant. And when they do they will be digging in a place with lots of memories.

The land located between Stark and Glisan streets from 223rd to 201st avenues was once timber-covered flatlands, recalls Frances Stone, 91, whose husband's parents Eliza and Hiram Stone, owned much of the land surrounding the soon-to-be home of Fujitsu.

Today some of the old-growth Douglas Fir still stand along 201st Avenue. There is about 245 acres of vacant land left. The rest is occupied by houses grouped around 201st Avenue on one end, and near the 223rd-Stark corner on the other end. Fujitsu bought 200 acres of the vacant land in December and has announced plans to build an integrated circuit manufacturing plant on the site.

"I have lived in this area all my life," said Stone.

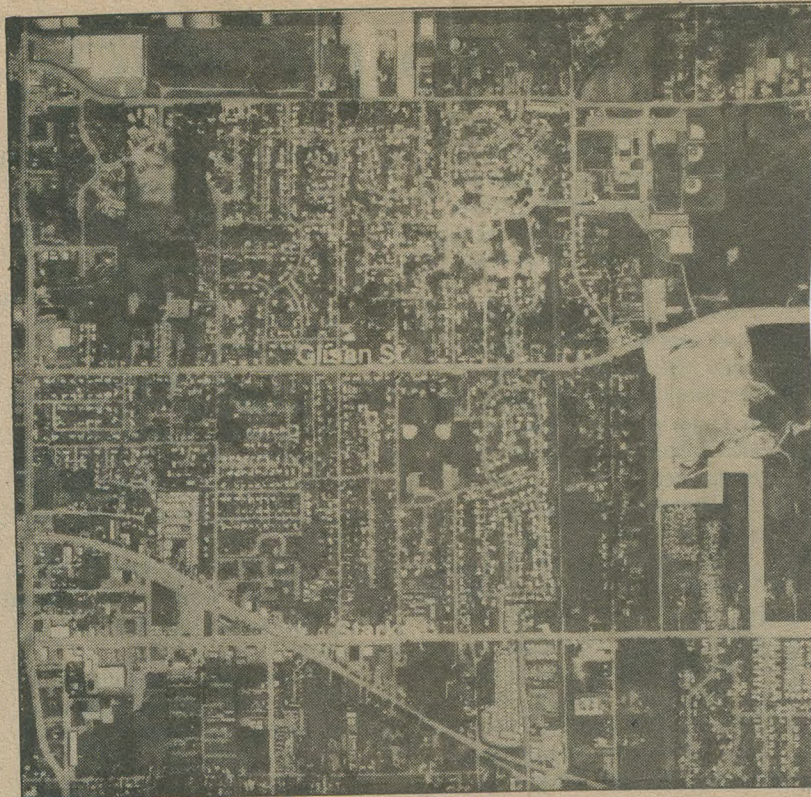
She and her parents, John and Josephine Bliss, lived in several places nearby — from today's site of the Multnomah Kennel Club to the current McGill Nursery, across 223rd Avenue. Stone's grandparents, Hiram and Hanna Smith, gave land for several schools, a church and the old Zimmerman market that is now Zim's IGA.

"I was born in a log cabin a stone's throw from where I live now," Stone said. Her present house, built about 30 years ago by her now deceased husband, Cedric, looks out over the property bought by Fujitsu.

One of the first major uses that people remember on the Fujitsu property is the A.C. Ruby Stock Farm, where Ruby bred and trained horses.

Jack Copeland, controller of Rogers Construction, a firm that later owned the land for 34 years, recalls the old barn from the Ruby Stock Farm.

"That was a big barn," he said. "We used it for our Rogers Stable business that we ran for three or four years. The Sheriff's Posse us-



The property recently purchased to be home for the Fujitsu electronics plant has evolved from being timber land to a horse ranch, golf course, air strip, a site of gravel mining, the subject of an ill-

ed to take it over for some of their affairs. It used to be quite an arena."

Ruby may have also raised some cattle on the land, but accounts aren't clear on that point.

Frank Newell Jr., 53, a longtime businessman in Gresham, recalls the Ruby operation.

"A.C. Ruby had a regular horse ranch there," said Newell, in a telephone interview from Palm Springs. "It was a stock farm for draft horses. He raised show stock. The old Rogers stable was the same building Ruby had built in the early 1900s. It may have been a combination horse and cattle operation."

Gresham resident Ben Davies adds to the story.

"I was here when it was a stock farm," said Davies, 90. "After the stock farm, it became the Ruby Golf Course."

In the 1930s, the eastern half of the section between Stark and Glisan streets was purchased by

Frank Newell Sr., who is now deceased.

"It was a golf course in the '30s," recalled Frank Newell Jr., who used to own the Pontiac dealership in Gresham. "I can't remember much of that. I'm only 53. In those days Stark Street was a major highway — the alternate to Highway 30 you know."

It was out in the country then, he said.

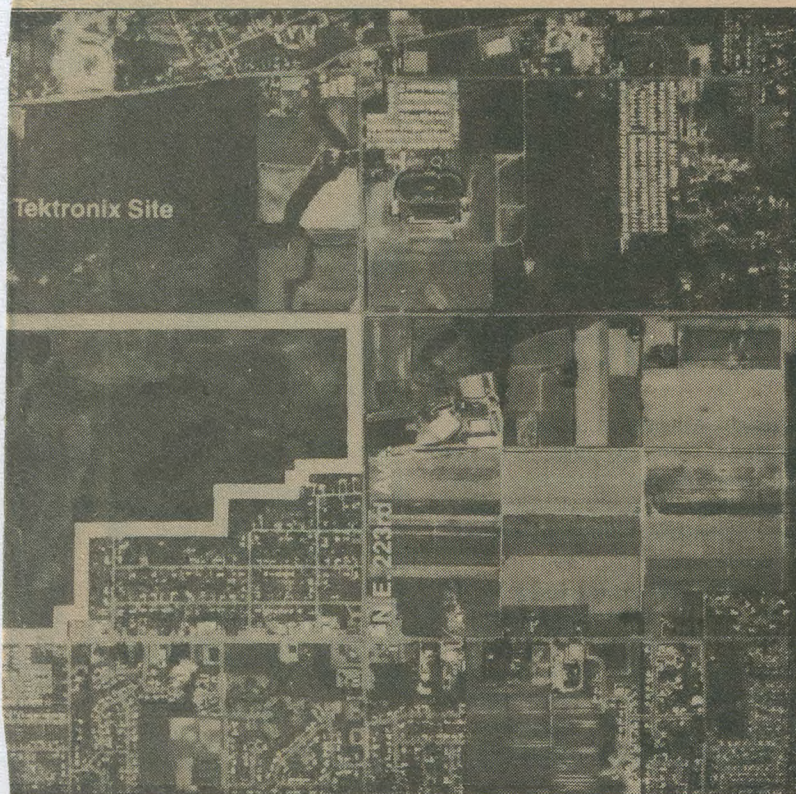
"There were a few beautiful, big houses along Stark," the younger Newell said. "It was picturesque. A pretty country road. We lived in the house where Whitmore Realty is today."

That house stands just across 201st Avenue on Stark Street.

In the 1940's the land was bought by real estate developer Ward H. Cook, who is now dead. His son, Ward V. Cook, remembers back to those days.

"My dad owned part of that land," the younger Cook said. "He purchased the entire piece along

timber to computers



fated residential development. The site is located along Stark and Glisan streets between 223rd and 201st avenues.

223rd from Glisan to Stark. He bought it from Frank Newell. My dad started a subdivision named Newell Park along the top. The only thing there in the '40s was Zim's at 12-Mile Corner."

Talking with Newell triggered memories of a grass airstrip on the land. It was about where the lakes sit today.

"It was a private field, just a grass field," Newell said. "A lot of guys learned to fly there. I think it was there four to six years."

Pete McGill, owner of McGill Nursery, across 223rd Avenue confirms the memories of the air strip.

"Yeah, there was an airstrip," he said. "I think it was owned by Boyd Simmons, and the Trohs might have been in on it."

Some of the tall trees along 201st Avenue and some of the powerlines were there in those days, making it a tricky proposition for pilots, recalls Bob Sturges, a Troutdale resident, airplane collector and pilot.

"We started Troutdale in 1946 I think," Sturges said. "That grass strip came in about 1947. It was operational in 1948. When the Vanport flood threatened Troutdale I remember flying all kinds of planes over there. We flew well into the night and were at it again at the break of dawn."

Sturges believes Cliff Crum and several other people shared ownership of the strip. However, records of that are elusive.

"It was called Birdsedale Airport," Sturges said. "The runway paralleled Glisan. It had one hangar and outside tie-downs."

"It attracted poorer people because it offered free tie-downs to attract people from Troutdale," Sturges said. "They would haul their own gas. It was in trouble from the start."

Sturges' flight logs reminded him of when the airstrip closed.

"I flew the last airplane out of there on July 20, 1950," he said. The airplane was a UC-78, called a

"bamboo bomber." It had much of the fabric missing, and made for a hair-raising trip back to Troutdale for Sturges. He covered the bare areas with cloth from another old airplane and tied it on with ropes.

Because he didn't have much fuel, he timed his takeoff to get the most from the stiff east wind that day. Just as he approached Troutdale, a window blew out, making the airplane more unstable. Just as he lost all his forward momentum over the runway, the wind snapped the plane around 90 degrees, setting it down without a scratch to Sturges or the old "derelict" aircraft, he said.

In 1951, Rogers Construction, 11760 N.E. Glisan St., started buying the vacant land between Glisan and Stark streets and 201st and 223rd avenues, said Copeland. The first parcel came from Wick and Cecilia Hauser and was along 201st Avenue, he said. The Selma, Rupp, Olson and Waterhouse families all sold property to Rogers.

"We called it the Birdsedale property," Copeland recalled after conferring with company owner Ray Rogers. "We were mining the gravel out of it. We were taking rock out of there until 1975. The mining dug the holes that are now the lakes."

Rogers stopped mining because it had exhausted the gravel to the point that it wasn't profitable to mine anymore, Copeland said. Then the firm's thoughts turned to developing the land.

It planned an exclusive subdivision based around the lakes, and dubbed the project Cedar Lake Estates. In preparation for the house, condominium and apartment complex, Rogers struck a partnership with Circle Construction, which had purchased the east end of the site along 223rd Avenue. They teamed with Northwest Equities, a group of Canadians willing to finance construction.

However, Rogers ran into trouble with city of Gresham officials on the project. The firm wanted the exclusive neighborhood to be buffered by high mounds of dirt along

Continued on Page 11D.

OUTLOOK

Fujitsu construction passes halfway mark

~~OUT~~ MAY 25, 88

Construction on the first phase of Fujitsu's plant in Gresham is more than halfway complete.

Dick Romano, vice president of administration for Fujitsu Microelectronics Inc., told members of the Gresham Chamber of Commerce Monday that construction passed the halfway mark on May 15 and the plant is on schedule to begin operation by the end of the year.

By early next year, up to 300 people should be working at the plant off Southeast Stark Street, said Romano, who spoke at the chamber's weekly noon forum.

During his talk, Romano recapped many of the events that led to the decision to push ahead with the Gresham plant, which will manufacture computer chips. Fujitsu first began looking for a site for a such a

facility in 1984. It chose Oregon because of its water supply, inexpensive land, labor pool and quality of life, Romano said. "This is a very appealing area to live," he said.

However, Fujitsu's first choice for a site was on Portland's southwest side, he said, adding that the site was ruled out because of "problems with vibrations." The Gresham site, he noted, was formerly a rock quarry. "We've got a good, solid foundation there."

The rocks at the site, however, have posed some challenges for construction crews. Displaying a sample photo of a large boulder that had to be removed from the site, Romano said: "The boulders have been the No. 1 problem we've had in construction."

Construction should reach a peak

this summer when about 400 craftsmen will be working two, possibly three, shifts, Romano said.

Once the plant begins operation, it probably will incorporate a blend of Japanese and American culture into its work atmosphere. "We hope to

maintain the Japanese flavor," Romano said, adding that Fujitsu operates under "participative management."

The initial work force at the plant will include engineers, operators and technicians.

Opinion

Page 8A Gresham Outlook, Gresham, Ore; Wed. June 15, 1988

Fujitsu's generosity fills cultural needs

Fujitsu Microelectronics hasn't even opened the doors of its multimillion dollar plant being constructed on Southeast Stark Street, but already the community's newest industry is justifiably receiving rave reviews as a good citizen. Just ask anyone who attended the Fujitsu-sponsored Oregon Symphony concert held in the Gresham High School auditorium last week.

Fujitsu contributed \$5,000 to underwrite the performance, which afforded the Oregon Symphony the rare opportunity to take its show on the road. Corporate sponsorship of the symphony is the lifeblood of the highly acclaimed orchestra. By playing to crowds outside of downtown Portland, the symphony lives up to its name as truly belonging to all of Oregon.

But the symphony performance is not the only cultural contribution that Fujitsu has made to Gresham. The company also has pledged \$50,000 to the Gresham Historical Society, which will use it toward purchase of the existing downtown library for a museum. This investment will make a mark on the community for many years to come.

Ironically, Fujitsu's commitment to the historical society has caused some minor confusion. The Outlook reported in last Saturday's paper that the \$50,000 was earmarked for the new branch of the Multnomah County Library scheduled to be built in downtown Gresham. A snafu in information released to the media caused the confusion. Although The Outlook was not entirely responsible for the misunderstanding, we're pleased to clarify exactly what Fujitsu has planned.

Hopefully, other businesses will follow the example set by Fujitsu in the years to come. In the meantime, thanks Fujitsu. We're fortunate to have you here.

OUTLOOK: MAY 21, 88

Fujitsu, Gresham make good match

The first phase of the new Gresham Fujitsu microelectronics plant is almost half finished, and plans are proceeding so well that more than 100 employees should be on the job by late this year, according to Dick Romano, vice president for administration.

Romano took time out Monday to address the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce, and his message was one of optimism for Gresham and for Fujitsu.

Fujitsu's investment in the first phase of development is more than \$100 million, and as Romano appropriately puts it, "The commitment is very major." Major indeed — especially considering that Gresham landed the electronics plant by a curious twist of fate. The company's first choice was to build its plant on the west side near Tigard. But fortunately for Gresham, sophisticated vibration tests showed the Tigard area unsuitable for Fujitsu.

Romano's speech before the chamber confirmed once again that Gresham is very fortunate to have a clean and quality oriented company moving to town.

Romano also dispelled a rumor that has been making the rounds in Gresham lately. Many of the new Fujitsu employees are moving to the area, contrary to street talk. For example, out of six engineers recently hired by Fujitsu, four have purchased property in the Gresham area.

Romano estimates that about half the work force will be residents of the Portland area and the other half will come from other places.

Judging from Romano's remarks, Fujitsu and Gresham make a good match. We have a feeling that Fujitsu will help put Gresham on the map and will be a very good citizen.

EDITORIALS: Opinions expressed above are those of the Gresham Outlook. Reader response, disagreeing or otherwise, is cordially invited. Please mail your comments to the editor, Gresham Outlook, P.O. Box 880, Gresham, Ore., 97030.

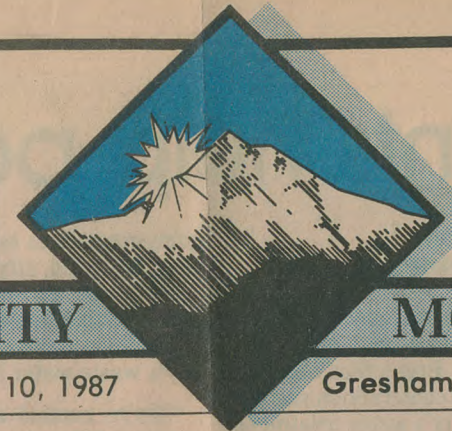
Gresham

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77th Year, Number 81

Saturday, October 10, 1987

Gresham, Oregon



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by SUSAN ROMANITIS
of The Outlook staff

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Turn to FUJITSU, Page 4A.

Outlook

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Turn to NEIGHBORS, Page 4A.

OUT MAY, 10, 2000

Fujitsu plans Gresham expansion

\$550 million investment will increase flash memory production

BY ANNE ENDICOTT
of The Outlook staff

Consumers' love for hand-held wireless devices has become a boon for Gresham's economy.

Fujitsu Microelectronics announced last week it will invest \$550 million in its Gresham plant during the next two years to expand production of flash memory products.

The company also plans to hire 300 additional employees by 2002, bringing employment at the facility to about 800 workers.

In a press release issued Wednesday, May 3, Kazunari Shirai, group president of Fujitsu's Electronic Devices Group in Japan, said, "Gresham will be one of Fujitsu's major flash-memory facilities and one of the most significant such facilities in the United States."

The move marks Fujitsu's first expansion of the facility since the opening of its second fabrication plant in 1998. A slump in the personal computer main memory chip industry forced Fujitsu to shut down operation of its first fabrication plant at the time.

Once the idle and outdated building is brought up to speed, Fujitsu's Gresham plant will increase production of flash memory from 10,000 to 30,000 wafers monthly.

At a time when the microelectronics industry can be volatile, the expansion is good news for Gresham.

"Originally, Fujitsu made a commitment to build a \$1 billion factory," said Rob Fussell, Building

Development Division manager for Gresham. "Before they even finished the building, the bottom fell out of the market. What's really cool about their commitment is that they turned the worst into the best. With Fujitsu and the prosperity of LSI Logic, we can look forward to continuing to attract these kinds of business."

Fujitsu's Gresham water-fabrication plant began production of Dynamic Random Access Memory products in October 1988. During the next 10 years, the factory was expanded to 545,000 square feet, twice the size of the original plant.

When the DRAM market plummeted in 1998, the company shifted its focus to flash memory and high-speed memory products.

Flash-memory is used in cellular telephones, digital cameras and other hand-held wireless devices, enabling the unit to store data without a power source.

Fujitsu's initial production goal of 10,000 wafers per month was tripled to meet the "robust demand" for flash memory in mobile products, Shirai said.

Fujitsu sits atop the list of the largest 10 taxpaying industries in Gresham, Fussell said. At \$493 million, the company is responsible for 9.9 percent of the city's assessed value. Gresham's total assessed value is \$4.98 billion.

And while an expected increase in the property's assessment will benefit the city, Fussell said Fujitsu's expansion will have a far wider effect.

"That's why this industry is so important to us," he said. "When the word gets out around the country and the world that the microelectronics industry is doing well, that's where

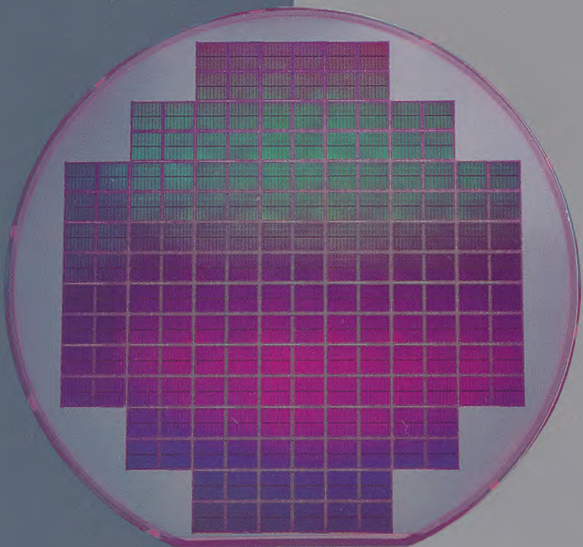
the suppliers want to be. This is very good for Gresham."

Simultaneously with the announcement of Fujitsu's Gresham expansion came news that the company's Hillsboro plant would be scaling back its production, displacing 160 workers.

Emi Igarashi, director of Corporate Communications for Fujitsu, said some of those employees might find their way to Gresham.

"It's a totally different industry and product in Hillsboro," she said. "They produce disc drives in that plant. It will depend on their qualifications if they are hired in Gresham."

Fujitsu sits on 200 acres on Southeast Stark Street between Southeast 205th and 212th avenues. The land was formerly occupied by horses and cattle.



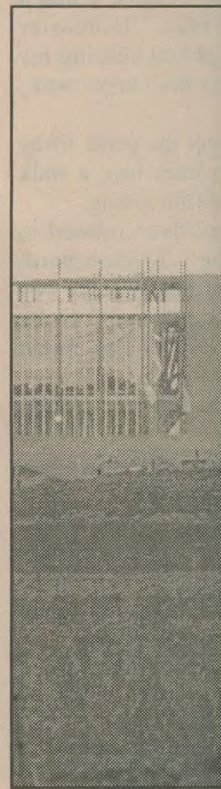
GRESHAM
MANUFACTURING
DIVISION

FUJITSU

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Business



The pace of construction is brisk at the Fujitsu Microelectronics plant, left, and the new LSI Logic operation, right. Fujitsu

Fujitsu's expansion ahead

❑ LSI Logic delaying opening of new Gresham

by JOHN HENDERER
of The Outlook staff

A softening in the semiconductor market for computer chips is delaying Fujitsu Microelectronics' plant expansion in England, but Gresham's \$1 billion plant is going up faster than expected.

The Gresham plant construction, which will include 750,000 square feet of space, should be completed by late summer, said spokeswoman Emi Igarashi. Fujitsu expects to begin mass production of 16-megabyte memory chips, the next generation technology, in December, she said.

Igarashi said Fujitsu's \$1 billion expansion in Durham, England, has not been canceled but postponed indefinitely. Depending on market conditions, Fujitsu expects to begin work on the England plant later this year.

Gresham won Fujitsu's first expansion ahead of England by granting a \$23 million tax break.

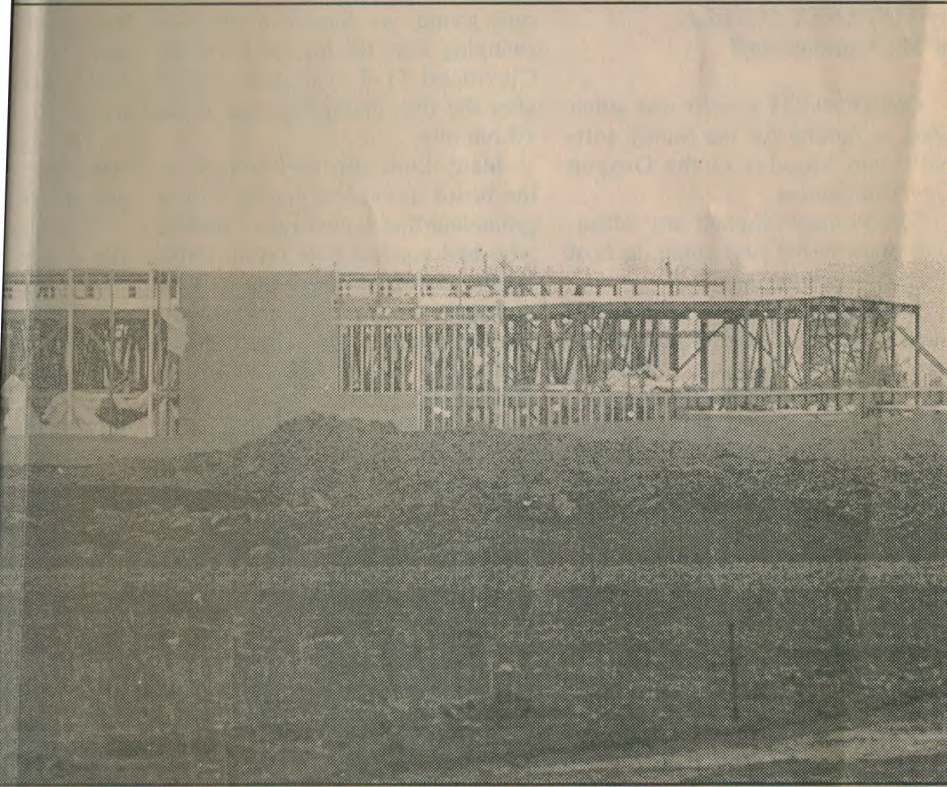
LSI Logic, which is building a \$665 million custom chip fabrication plant nearby, has delayed its opening date by 60 to 90 days, but that decision was based on scheduling contractors, not on the market, said

Kevin Brett, LSI Logic spokesman.

Together, the company's new Gresham plants will eventually employ nearly 1,000 people.

"We have delayed the arrival of the equipment I'm told 60 to 90 days," Brett said. Based on meetings with contractor LSI decided, "We were not going to compromise quality by pushing too hard," he said.

The slowdown in the global semiconductor market is affecting LSI, but much less than a strict memory chip manufacturer. Fewer than half of LSI's chips are installed



STEVE KASSERMAN/The Outlook

project is ahead of schedule. LSI's is behind.

d of schedule

ip plant by 60 to 90 days

in computers and only 15 percent into personal computers. The balance are made for communications and consumer electronics.

The plant should still begin production in the first or second quarter of 1997, he said.

"There were things that I think we were pushing too hard on, and we backed off on them," said Joe Zelayeta, LSI's Gresham general manager, explaining that electricians, plumbers and air handlers were competing for the same space at once.

Micron Technology Inc. announced last month it would delay completion of its \$2.5 billion chip factory in Utah until the market improves.

Semiconductor sales fell below expectations in the fourth quarter and a string of 60 consecutive months of orders that exceeded billings was snapped in January when billings dropped 17 percent.

The Semiconductor Industry Association said last week that "all signs indicate the marketplace is stabilizing" following the January orders decline.

Semiconductor sales reached \$144.4 billion last year, an 87 percent increase over 1993 and nearly triple the sales of five years earlier.

EAST Metro - OREGONIAN - October 29, 1987

Charities may gain from new Fujitsu plant in Gresham

□ A corporate affiliate of the 350-job semiconductor factory is a major supporter of public-interest groups

By ERIC GORANSON
of The Oregonian staff

GRESHAM — Fujitsu Microelectronics Inc. has yet to establish a good-neighbor policy, but if it follows in the footsteps of its corporate sister, Fujitsu America Inc., it won't take a back seat to anyone once its \$70 million, 350-job semiconductor plant in Gresham is operating.

"We're studying what's available (in working) with charitable groups now," said Tim Henard, company marketing and communications supervisor in San Jose, Calif.

Although Fujitsu Microelectronics has operated a plant producing electronic equipment for computers since 1981 in San Diego and set up a sales and marketing program in Santa Clara, Calif., in 1979, it has yet to start a corporate neighbor program, Henard said.

However, Fujitsu America, which opened a plant in Hillsboro last year, already has been a major contributor to education,

chambers of commerce and other public-support groups wherever it has located.

"They're wonderful," Hillsboro Librarian Debra Brodie said of Fujitsu America's help since it opened a disc-drive plant in Hillsboro in 1986. "They have a vested interest in education and the quality of life. They've been good to the library."

The company has helped to establish a technology resource center, subscribed to high-tech magazines that the library would otherwise be unable to afford and provided many furnishings, Brodie said. She estimated the value of Fujitsu's contributions at about \$7,000.

"Gresham will be blessed to have them," Brodie added.

Also, Brodie said, Fujitsu put on a week-long cross-cultural exhibit with actors and speakers last year and a similar daylong event this year.

Fujitsu America also has worked with Tuality Community Hospital and Tuality Health Care Foundation in subscribing to some \$2,500 worth of otherwise unaffordable health-oriented publications that are available to the general public, said Christina Friedhoff, vice president for the health care foundation.

Eystein Thodarson, general manager of

Fujitsu's Hillsboro plant, also sits on the hospital board. In addition, the company has contributed substantial sums to Hillsboro's "Picture Perfect" beautification program.

Fujitsu America established its first U.S. plant in the 1970s and now operates 70 facilities in 28 states and Canadian provinces with revenues of \$820 million in the year ending March 1987. As a policy, the company looks beyond its immediate surroundings in providing good will and monetary support.

For example, the University of Portland also has benefited from the start up of the Hillsboro operation. The university has received two Oasis processors worth a total of about \$2,500, which, when tied to other equipment, enable typists to have their work instantly translated into Japanese or English.

In other cities across the country, the company has been well-received.

In Palm City, Fla., where Fujitsu opened a computer-related product plant in April 1980, city manager Richard Diamond said the company has had a "positive" impact on the community.

In Richardson, Texas, Ron Robinson, the chamber of commerce president, called the company "an excellent neighbor."

The Richardson plant, a dozen miles

north of Dallas, opened in April 1984. The plant assembles fiber optic transmission systems and manufactures cellular mobile phones and other equipment.

The plant is in the top 20 among 150 high-tech companies in the area as far as employment goes and "is an excellent corporate citizen," Robinson said. Among its contributions to the chamber were four "top-of-the-line" Fujitsu printers, which were tied in with the chamber's donated computer system. Robinson estimated the value of the Fujitsu equipment at up to \$10,000.

Margaret Lasecke, director of corporate communications in San Jose, said that Fujitsu America was a supporter of United Good Way and urged its employees to contribute on their own.

This year, Fujitsu contributed \$25,000 toward a March of Dimes Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament featuring San Francisco 49ers football players, and is a regular supporter of a Washington, D.C.-based group that educates voters on national issues.

Fujitsu's Japanese parent, Fujitsu Ltd., founded the Japanese-American Institute for Management Science in Honolulu. The non-profit institution educates people from both countries in how to deal with each other properly.