

**Media Release**

**8 July 2026**

**National Honours Conferred on Two Business Leaders  
for Significant Contributions to Singapore**

1. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore, conferred national honours on two business leaders today. The Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) award was conferred on Mr Christian Kullmann, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Evonik Industries AG, and Mr Hung Chia-Tsung (Stan Hung), Chairman of United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), during a ceremony held at the Istana.
2. Mr Png Cheong Boon, Chairman of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), said: “Mr Christian Kullmann and Mr Stan Hung have overseen major investments that have expanded the capabilities of our specialty chemicals and semiconductor industries, and reinforced Singapore’s global leadership in high-value manufacturing. We appreciate Evonik’s and UMC’s partnership in fostering innovation and developing future-ready talent in Singapore, as we strengthen our economic resilience. Congratulations on your award and thank you for your continued confidence in Singapore.”

**Mr Christian Kullmann**

3. Mr Christian Kullmann is the Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Evonik Industries AG, a global leader in specialty chemicals and a significant player in Singapore’s chemicals industry. He has been with the company since 2003 and has served as its Chairman and CEO since 2017.
4. Evonik first established its presence in Singapore in 1969 and has since invested over S\$1.5 billion (US\$1.2 billion) here. Under Mr Kullmann’s leadership, Evonik has made a series of landmark investments in manufacturing and research and development (R&D) that have significantly strengthened Singapore’s position as a leading specialty chemicals hub in Asia. In 2018, Evonik established its Asia Research Hub (ARH) in Singapore, which has over 60 R&D employees today. The ARH expanded its mandate in 2022 and 2024 to work on new areas such as life sciences and skin sciences.

5. On the manufacturing front, Evonik has invested in two world-scale methionine facilities on Jurong Island — the largest such complex in the world. In 2024, Evonik completed the Singapore Methionine Expansion (SIMEX) project, which further expanded capacity while incorporating low-carbon technologies to significantly reduce the complex’s carbon footprint. This was followed by Evonik’s inauguration of a world-scale alkoxides facility on Jurong Island in 2025 — its first in Asia.
6. Mr Kullmann has consistently championed Singapore’s strategic relevance to Evonik across multiple areas — manufacturing, innovation, headquarters, and now AI. Beyond Evonik, he has advocated for Singapore as a reliable partner for companies looking to scale and innovate. Today, Singapore serves as a critical node in Evonik’s strategy to unlock growth opportunities across Asia and beyond.
7. On being conferred the Award, Mr Kullmann said: “I am deeply honoured to receive the Public Service Star, which I accept on behalf of our more than 700 dedicated employees in Singapore. For nearly six decades, the Singapore Government and the company have fostered a partnership founded on trust, mutual respect, and shared ambition. This meaningful collaboration has been nurtured and strengthened by dedication and effort, for which I am profoundly grateful. For Evonik, Asia is a key growth region, and Singapore plays a central role in shaping our business here. Thanks to Singapore’s stability, talent, and connectivity over many years, we have been able to grow steadily here.”

### **Mr Stan Hung**

8. Mr Stan Hung joined UMC in 1991 and served as Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President before assuming his current role as Chairman. Under Mr Hung’s leadership, UMC — a leading semiconductor foundry — has made transformative investments in Singapore’s semiconductor ecosystem, strengthening Singapore’s position as a critical node in the global semiconductor supply chain.
9. Mr Hung championed UMC’s most recent S\$6.7 billion (US\$5 billion) investment in a new semiconductor fabrication facility in Singapore — the company’s second major investment here since it first established its presence in 2001. Operational since 2025, the advanced fab is on track to create approximately 700 jobs locally, building on more than 1,800 existing jobs from UMC’s current operations. Beyond job creation, the investment will enable Singapore to pioneer critical new capabilities in specialty semiconductor technologies that drive communications, Internet of Things (IoT), automotive and AI innovations. UMC’s continued expansion reflects the company’s

enduring confidence in Singapore as a leading base for advanced manufacturing and semiconductor R&D.

10. Beyond expanding UMC's operational footprint, Mr Hung has made significant contributions to local talent development in Singapore. He personally drove discussions with Ngee Ann Polytechnic, culminating in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance engineering training programmes and develop a steady pipeline of skilled talent for the semiconductor industry.
11. Mr Hung has been a strong and consistent advocate for Singapore within the broader semiconductor industry and leadership community. This has helped foster dialogue with several semiconductor companies, paving the way for potential investments and expansions in Singapore.
12. UMC's investments and Mr Hung's efforts to catalyse broader ecosystem development are expected to generate meaningful economic benefits for Singapore, including increased manufacturing output, higher value-added activities, and job creation, while further enhancing the competitiveness, resilience and long-term growth of Singapore's semiconductor ecosystem.
13. On being conferred the Award, Mr Hung said: "It's a great honour to be a recipient of the Public Service Star. I am grateful for EDB's unwavering support in facilitating the establishment of UMC's supply chain partnerships here, which have helped build a more comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem in Singapore. UMC is also proud to contribute to the development of local talent and capabilities, and we appreciate EDB's dedication to strengthening Singapore's position as a global leader in the semiconductor industry."

### **About the Awards**

Initiated by the Singapore Economic Development Board in 1998, the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) award recognises senior business executives for their outstanding contributions to the economic growth of Singapore. Between 1998 and 2025, 53 senior business executives, including Mr Kullmann and Mr Hung, have been conferred the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore) award.

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**ANNEX A: Citation of Award Recipients**

**ANNEX B: Biographies of Award Recipients**

**About the Singapore Economic Development Board**

The Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), a government agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is responsible for strategies that enhance Singapore's position as a global centre for business, innovation, and talent. We undertake investment promotion and industry development, and work with international businesses, both foreign and local, by providing information, connection to partners and access to government incentives for their investments. Our mission is to create sustainable economic growth, with vibrant business and good job opportunities for Singapore and Singaporeans.

For more information on EDB, please visit [www.edb.gov.sg](http://www.edb.gov.sg)

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**ANNEX A**

**Citation for Mr Christian Kullmann - Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore), 2025 award**

Mr Christian Kullmann, Chairman of the Executive Board and Chief Executive Officer of Evonik, has made outstanding contributions to the growth of Singapore's specialty chemicals industry and our economic development.

Under Mr Kullmann's leadership, Evonik has grown into one of the world's leading specialty chemicals companies, with Singapore as a cornerstone of its global operations. Evonik is now one of Singapore's largest chemicals investors, with more than S\$1.5 billion invested over the past five decades. Singapore is home to Evonik's Asia-Pacific regional headquarters, six manufacturing plants, and an Asia Research Hub. It has over 700 employees across its operations in Singapore.

Mr Kullmann oversaw several key investments that Evonik made in Singapore as part of its global business strategy. In 2019, Evonik completed its second methionine plant on Jurong Island, representing an investment of over S\$768 million — the company's largest single investment globally at the time. The project doubled Evonik's production capacity in Singapore. In 2024, Evonik completed the expansion of its facilities, incorporating initiatives to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of its sites, and strengthening its leading position in methionine production.

In 2025, Evonik inaugurated a world-scale alkoxides production facility on Jurong Island — its first such plant in Asia. The greenfield facility supports key growth industries in the region, including biodiesel, pharmaceuticals, and chemical recycling, and is designed to operate with net-zero Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions, in alignment with Singapore's push toward sustainable manufacturing.

Beyond manufacturing, Mr Kullmann has also championed innovation in Singapore. In 2018, Evonik opened its Asia Research Hub, a regional centre for innovation and scientific talent. The Hub has cultivated a collaborative research culture, forging partnerships with Singapore's Institutes of Higher Learning, and A\*STAR, while also developing chemical and biotech capabilities among the Singaporean talent pool. Evonik has been a strong partner in Singapore's efforts to build a sustainable and innovation-driven specialty chemicals ecosystem.

**In recognition of Mr Kullmann's outstanding contributions to Singapore, the President of the Republic of Singapore is pleased to confer the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore), 2025 award on Mr Christian Kullmann.**

**Citation for Mr Stan Hung - Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore), 2025 award**

Mr Stan Hung, Chairman of United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), has made outstanding contributions to the growth of Singapore's semiconductor industry and the Singapore economy.

Under Mr Hung's leadership across different roles, UMC has grown its footprint and deepened its partnership with Singapore over the past two decades. In 2001, UMC broke ground to build Singapore's first 12-inch wafer fab. It was a S\$6 billion investment. This marked the largest semiconductor investment in Singapore's history at that point and set the foundation for advanced semiconductor manufacturing here.

In 2025, UMC expanded its presence in Singapore through a new fab that is expected to create around 700 jobs over the next few years. UMC's S\$6.7 billion investment anchors its industry-leading 22nm and 28nm manufacturing processes, along with R&D of advanced platform technologies that enable next-generation communications, automotive, and AI applications. These will boost Singapore's specialty semiconductor manufacturing capabilities and competitiveness as a global semiconductor hub.

Today, Singapore produces about a quarter of UMC's global 12-inch output, and houses UMC's Centre of Excellence for 12-inch specialty products. These activities have created good jobs for over 1,800 employees, with positive spillovers for over 500 local suppliers providing equipment, chemicals and gas, and facilities to UMC. Under Mr Hung's leadership, UMC is also actively exploring new opportunities in sustainable manufacturing and intelligent operations through collaboration with local solution providers and ecosystem partners.

Mr Hung has also strengthened UMC's collaborations with Singapore's industry associations and Institutes of Higher Learning to develop the semiconductor talent pool. UMC has partnered with Ngee Ann Polytechnic to train Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) talent through curriculum design and work-study opportunities for students and graduates while actively partnering the Singapore Semiconductor Industry Association (SSIA) in outreach efforts to attract talent to the semiconductor industry. These efforts to grow a healthy semiconductor talent pipeline demonstrate UMC's unwavering commitment to partnering Singapore in building an innovative and vibrant semiconductor industry for the long term.

**In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Singapore, the President of the Republic of Singapore is pleased to confer the Public Service Star (Distinguished Friends of Singapore), 2025 award on Mr Stan Hung.**

**ANNEX B**

**Biographies of Award Recipients**



**Mr Christian Kullmann**  
Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Evonik Industries AG

Mr Christian Kullmann has served as Chairman of the Executive Board of the German-based chemical company Evonik since 2017, after joining the Board in 2014 as Chief Strategy Officer. Under his leadership, the company — employing approximately 31,000 people worldwide — has undergone a strategic realignment, focusing on delivering tailored innovations, products, and solutions that give customers a decisive competitive advantage. From 2020 to 2022, Mr Kullmann held prominent roles in industry organisations, serving as President of the German Chemical Industry Association (VCI) and Vice President of the Federation of German Industries (BDI). He also chairs the Business Advisory Board at the Goethe-Institut, Germany’s official cultural institute. Before joining Evonik, Mr Kullmann held various positions at Dresdner Bank in Frankfurt until 2003. Born in 1969 in Gelsenkirchen (Germany), he earned a master’s degree in economic history. He is married and has two children.



**Mr Stan Hung**  
Chairman of United Microelectronics Corporation

Mr Stan Hung is Chairman of United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), bringing more than three decades of leadership experience in finance and corporate strategy in the semiconductor industry. He joined the company in 1991 and has held key financial management roles. After holding the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO), he was appointed Chairman in 2008. With a strong background in finance and corporate strategy, Mr Hung has played a key role in UMC's strategic transformation, mergers and acquisitions and global growth. Mr Hung is also Chairman of Faraday Technology Corporation and Silicon Integrated Systems Corporation. He was recognised by Institutional Investor Magazine as the semiconductor sector’s best CFO in 2004, and was

	<p>conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering by Taiwan's prestigious National Tsing Hua University in 2021 for his contribution to the semiconductor industry. He graduated from Tamkang University in Taiwan with a degree in accounting.</p>
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