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## Hiwin Plans Industry 4.0 Tool Making

### Taiwan

Taiwan's leading machinery maker, Hiwin Technologies Co on Saturday said its new products — the keys to developing "Industry 4.0" — are expected to start volume production next year.

The company said it is in talks with local machinery and semiconductor associations on any future collaboration in Industry 4.0, especially in the integrated circuit (IC) industry. Industry 4.0, or the fourth industrial revolution, is a term used to describe an emphasis on smart manufacturing, such as factory automation and environmental surveillance, including Internet of

Things (IoT) applications. It could be Taiwan's core competitive market for the next 50 years or even century, Hiwin chairman Eric Chuo said.

"Hiwin has always been dedicated to promoting Industry 4.0," Chuo said at an event in Taipei on Saturday. "Our new ballscrew and liner guideway products are to begin mass production next year, which is unprecedented."

Chuo, who is also the president of the Taiwan Machine Tool and Accessory Builders' Association and the Taiwan Automation Intelligence and Robotics Association, did not elaborate on details of the products. However, he touted the company's performance in both manufacturing and design, saying that Hiwin's uniaxial robot has won two major international design awards this year, including a Red Dot Design Award and a iF Product Design Award.

However, in the Industry 4.0 era, the industry needs to address the issue of sensors used in the IoT infrastructure, Chuo said. "We believe Taiwan's IC design is in a time of transformation," Chuo said. "Only after we develop industrial ICs and sensors that have a high profit margin can we stop depending on all of our industrial sensors from imports."



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