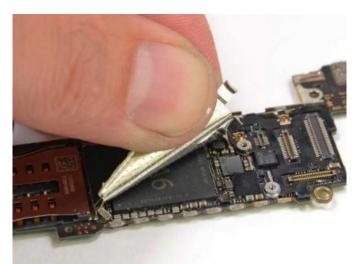
Rivals will be remain rivals-- according to the Wall Street Journal, Apple just managed to poach top chip designer Jim Mergard from the Samsung ranks.



Mergard is a 16-year AMD veteran, where he was VP and chief engineer before leaving for Samsung. He was one of the leads behind "Brazos," a high-end AMD chip development aiming at portable PC use.

"We are looking for the best and brightest chip heads..." a post from an Apple employee on LinkedIn says.

Judging from the bitter the Apple-Samsung rivalry (one culminating a patent infringement suit worth \$1 billion), the hiring sounds less like simple headhunting and more like throwing salt at not-too-old wounds.

At Apple Mergard will surely work on the next generation of iDevice processor. Following that, Apple will have to produce the silicon... with its biggest partner, Samsung.

Go Chip Design Luminary Leaves Samsung for Apple (WSJ.com)