

Korean firm's \$22B investment will mean new US jobs, WH says

July 26 2022, by WILL WEISSERT



President Joe Biden, on screen at left, listens as SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, right, speaks from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, July 26, 2022. The meeting comes as the Biden administration is seeking the cooperation of Asian allies such as South Korea to reinforce supply chains for critical components such as semiconductors. Credit: AP Photo/Susan Walsh

South Korea's SK Group on Tuesday announced plans to invest \$22 billion in the United States on industries including semiconductors, green energy and bioscience, which the White House said will create tens of thousands of domestic jobs while helping ease global supply chain snarls that have persisted during the coronavirus pandemic.

President Joe Biden, who continues to isolate in the White House residence after testing positive for COVID-19 last week, met virtually with SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won and called it a "historic and pathbreaking announcement."

It is "proof that we're meeting the emergency in the climate crisis with urgency and opportunity and innovation to save the planet and create good-paying jobs," Biden said.

SK Group's investments will include \$15 billion in the [semiconductor industry](#) through research and [development programs](#), as well as materials and a testing and packaging facility, which will help address supply chain problems, the conglomerate said in a statement.

Another \$5 billion will go to [green energy](#) businesses, including electric vehicle charging stations, green hydrogen production and battery materials and recycling, SK Group said. The final batch, which the company described as worth "several billions of dollars," would go toward biotechnologies developing new drugs designed to bolster competitiveness in the U.S. [pharmaceutical industry](#).



President Joe Biden, on screen at center, participates in a meeting with SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won, fourth from right, from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, July 26, 2022. The meeting comes as the Biden administration is seeking the cooperation of Asian allies such as South Korea to reinforce supply chains for critical components such as semiconductors. Credit: AP Photo/Susan Walsh

"In the past, these kinds of technology investments went to China," Biden said. "Today, and in my administration, these types of technology investments are coming to the United States."

SK Group had already previously said it would invest \$7 billion for new facilities that produce batteries for [electric vehicles](#) in Tennessee and Kentucky, as part of a joint venture with Ford Motor Co.

Last year, there was \$333.6 billion dollars in foreign investment in the U.S., the highest on record since 2016 and a 73% increase from 2020, the White House said in a statement.



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The announced investment is part of the Biden administration's efforts to reduce the impact of supply chain bottlenecks around the globe, which

the administration says are helping fuel record-high inflation. The White House is also championing a [proposal advancing through Congress](#) designed to boost the computer chips industry and high-tech research in the United States.

During a virtual meeting with industry and union leaders on Monday, [Biden called semiconductors](#) "the building blocks for the modern economy."

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