

CHINA CROSSROADS

Thursday, March 27th, 2025, 19:30 – 21:00

Book Talk on ASML: Inside the Power Struggle over the Most Complex Machine on Earth

Marc Hijink

Technology Reporter at Dutch Newspaper NRC

Author of [Focus: The ASML Way](#)

WhiteSpace | Jianing Building 5F | 500 Yanan Xi Lu
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For decades the most valuable technology company in Europe operated in the shadows. The chips manufactured by its machines, power our smartphones and AI assistants, make our coffee and drive our cars and even guide cruise missiles. In fact, roughly 90% of all chips worldwide are made with ASML's machines. In recent years, the Dutch manufacturing company has found itself in the spotlight, at the centre of a geopolitical storm between the United States, China and Europe. In [Focus: The ASML Way](#), journalist Marc Hijink brings us a unique insider portrait of this global giant. Hijink not only details the company's meteoric rise from a quiet town in the Netherlands to a powerful, global monopoly position, he also makes accessible the unbelievably complex technology that has been the key to ASML's success. It's lithography machines, which spit out millions of chips around the clock, work to an accuracy of within a few atoms. China is trying to copy the ASML technology while investing billions in its own chip-manufacturing programs to rival that of Taiwan. The US, in turn, seems to have the Dutch government on their side as they try and resuscitate their own chip manufacturing industry amid trade and cyber-warfare with China. Behind all the mind-blowing tech, Hijink discovers, ASML is a company fighting its own demons, scrambling to keep up with its success and an increasing number of security threats. This is the intimate story of the people and culture behind a business now caught in a diplomatic struggle for global might.

[Marc Hijink](#) is a financial reporter and technology columnist for the Dutch daily newspaper NRC. He covered ASML and its technology for more than a decade and reported on Europe's role in the tech war between the US and China. Building upon this experience he got the unique opportunity to take a three-year-long deep dive into the company's operations and unveil its culture from the inside to write [Focus: The ASML Way](#). Before joining NRC, Marc was the editor-in-chief of the Dutch edition of PC Magazine and ZDNet and was a reporter at De Gelderlander. He studied at Radboud University in Nijmegen, and mastered in Communications and Journalism.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.