

EU Chips Act 2.0 Is Fueling a Laser Revolution

How policy is turning femtosecond lasers into AI's hidden infrastructure.

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THE DATA

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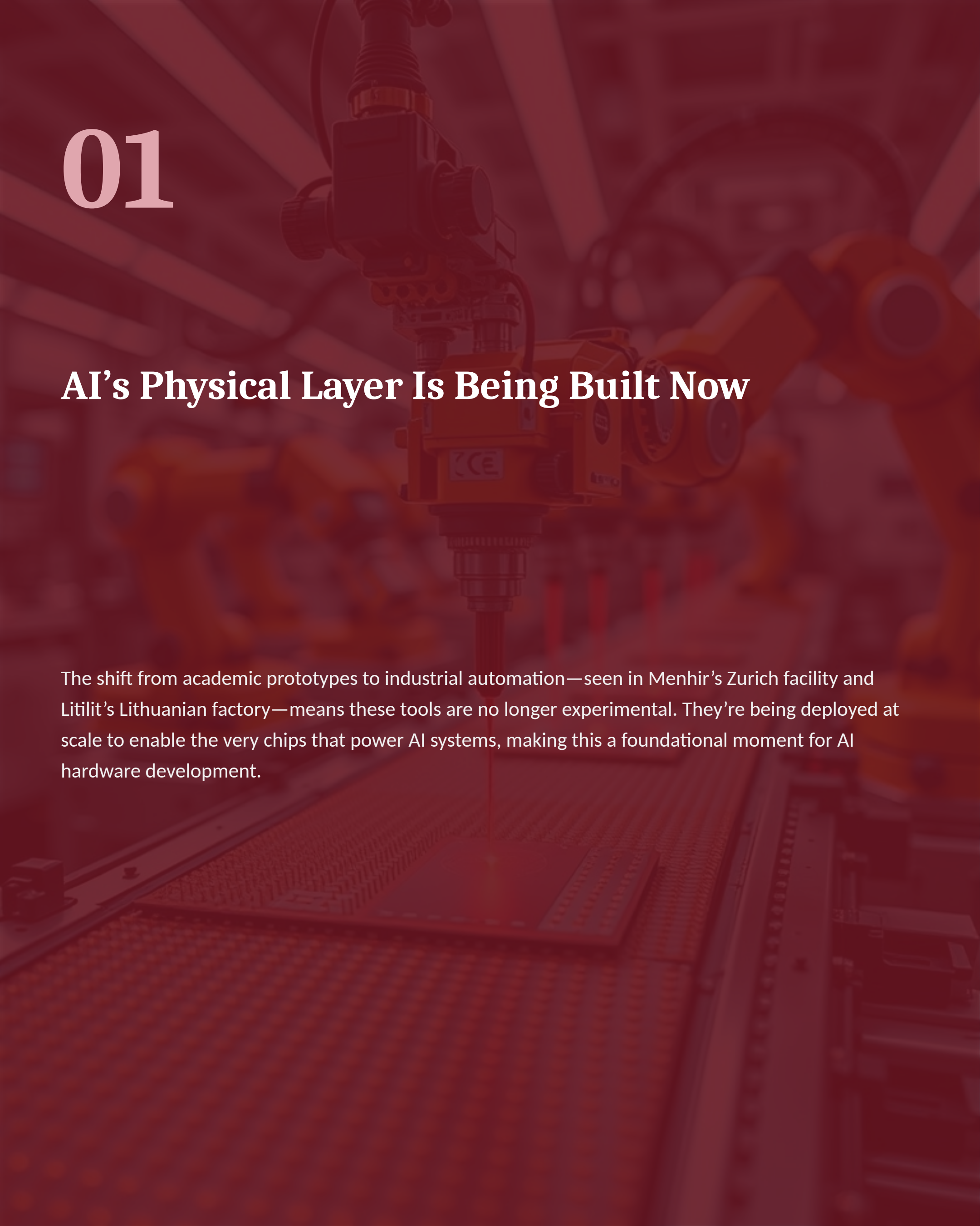
Femtosecond Lasers Annually

Litilit plans to manufacture up to 3,000 ultrafast lasers per year at its new Vilnius factory.

This production target marks a critical shift from niche academic tools to industrial-scale precision manufacturing. The ability to scale femtosecond lasers—essential for advanced chip packaging and interposers—signals that Europe is building not just chip capacity, but the foundational tools to produce them. This isn't just about supply chain resilience; it's about redefining what's possible in semiconductor processing.

Source: IEEE Spectrum • Published September 23, 2026
<https://spectrum.ieee.org/ultrafast-lasers-europe>

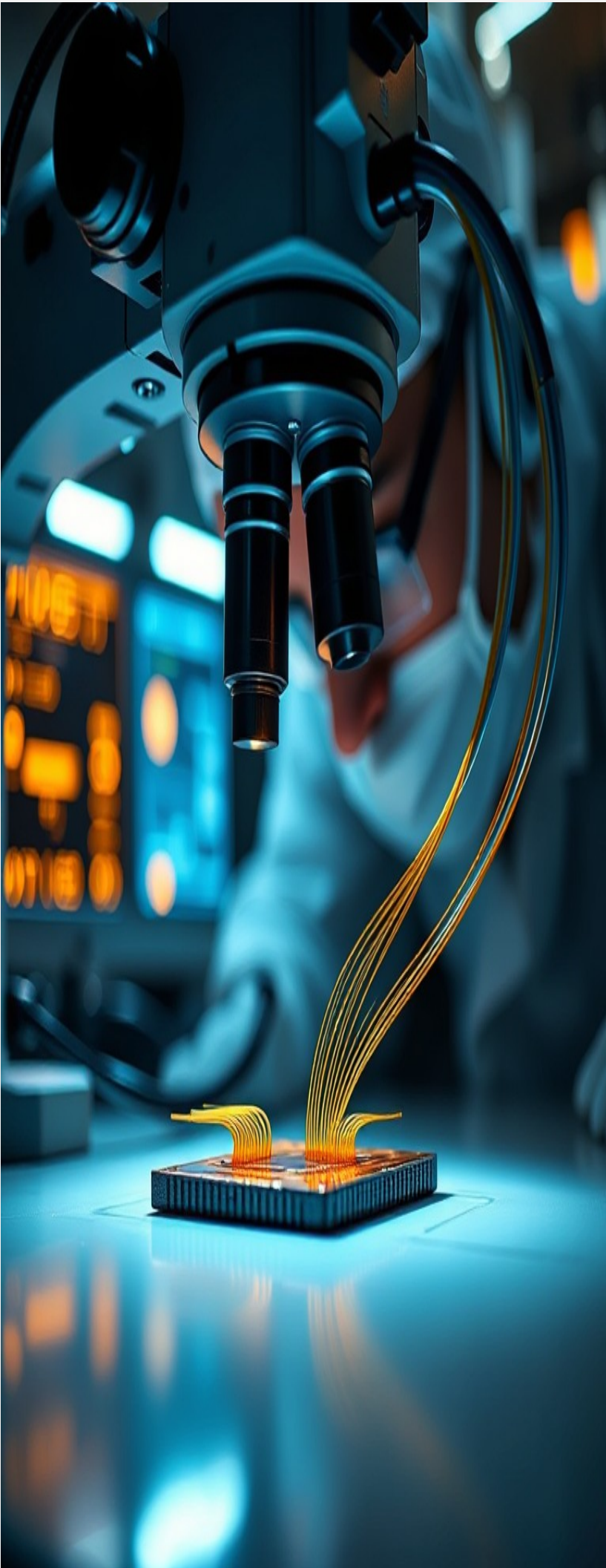




01

AI's Physical Layer Is Being Built Now

The shift from academic prototypes to industrial automation—seen in Menhir's Zurich facility and Lilit's Lithuanian factory—means these tools are no longer experimental. They're being deployed at scale to enable the very chips that power AI systems, making this a foundational moment for AI hardware development.



02

Sovereignty Is a Symptom, Not the Cause

The EU's Chips Act 2.0 may not deliver full independence, as Carlos Lee of EPIC warns—but it is creating the conditions for a surge in industrial-grade innovation. The fact that startups are being approached for applications beyond their original scope proves that infrastructure investment is unlocking new frontiers in AI hardware, even if the initial motivation was geopolitical.

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