

Godzilla: Japan planning to make new monster movie

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Toho's film will be released in 2016, a decade after its last take on the monster story, *Godzilla: Final Wars*.

This year's US *Godzilla* took more than \$500m (£321m) worldwide, and a sequel is already planned for 2018.

Toho said innovations in computer graphics technology were behind its decision to revive the franchise.

The film company previously said that its 2004 *Godzilla* film - the 28th in the series - would be its last.

The franchise began with 1954's widely-praised Japanese original, directed by Ishiro Honda.



Gareth Edwards' 2014 take on Godzilla topped the UK and US box office in May

However, more recent productions - such as the 1998 Hollywood version directed by Roland Emmerich - failed to impress fans or critics.

Edward's film - a co-production for Legendary Pictures and Warner Brothers released in May this year - revived the franchise.

Tokyo-based company Toho, which owns the rights to Godzilla, has not yet picked a director for its upcoming reboot.

Veteran producer Taichi Ueda is heading up the new project at Toho studios, which has launched the Godzilla Strategic Conference (Godzi-Con) - a committee aiming to reboot the Godzilla brand.

"The time has come for Japan to make a film that will not lose to Hollywood," [Ueda told reporters](#), according to Variety.

The company is not expected to spend the \$200m (£129m) reportedly lavished on the recent Hollywood Godzilla, but Ueda said Toho hopes to make Godzilla a character that "will represent Japan and be loved around the world" by the time of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The fire-breathing, reptilian monster - a combination of the Japanese words for whale and gorilla - is a mutation caused by nuclear testing.
