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## Driving changes in automotive safety

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such as high temperatures and voltage. As a major outcome, an ageing simulator suitable has been developed, integrated fully in the project partners' design environments, and introduced into the CAD marketplace.

## Improving reliability, cutting costs

ELIAS has also produced a set of international guidelines for Fast Wafer Level Reliability (FWLR) monitoring. This is an innovative method used to test the reliability of semiconductor components in a very short time frame, providing improved cost efficiency while upholding quality requirements. Rohr believes that the results will be beneficial to road safety, as well as the competitiveness of the European automotive industry: "Since device ageing effects and circuit lifetime estimation can now be validated at the design phase, we can better forecast projected savings in redesigns, speeding up the devices' time-to-market while also saving lives," she affirms.

The European automotive industry is renowned for its innovative approaches to product development and testing, but has been challenged by the Asian and North American markets in recent years. With the continued integration of smart-power technologies and the need to maintain high quality standards, the ability to permanently monitor production lines and reduce time-to-market is a growing concern. ELIAS simulation-based methodologies have, therefore, made a direct contribution to European competitiveness, of which Rohr

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s in order to ensure that the investigations are of the highest possible quality." The ELIAS team was awarded the Jean-Pierre Noblanc Award as the most innovative MEDEA+ project in 2009.

ELIAS partners have developed common agreed test methods and quantitative ageing models for the major stress mechanisms at silicon and package level. In addition, they have validated these models using diverse semiconductor technologies, casting light on the various ageing effects that electrical devices are likely to experience,