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Brussels forum plans to lobby EU for chip industry support

[Peter Clarke](#)
[EE Times Europe](#)
 12/01/2008 4:12 PM



LONDON — Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International, the industry body that represents chipmaking equipment and materials suppliers, is planning an invitation-only conference on Dec. 9 and 10 as an opportunity to present and discuss its white paper with European Union officials and other stakeholders.

So, if you have not been invited you are probably not sufficiently important to be welcome at the event.

SEMI launched its white paper on the future competitiveness of the European semiconductor industry on Oct. 8 (see '[SEMI sounds the alarm: European chip industry on the extinction list](#)' story).

All though SEMI is a global organization, the group has acted because, it says, of worries that any a further decline of the mainstream microelectronics manufacturing base would have a negative impact on Europe's overall competitiveness. The [white paper](#) offers six recommendations to the European Union and national governments to increase Europe's microelectronic industry competitiveness.

Among those recommendations are: develop a European vision for the role of the microelectronics industry; increase public funding for R&D and manufacturing; and find a role for SEMI in the development of environmental health and safety (EHS) legislation.

The SEMI Brussels forum is being planned as a series of individual meetings with the European Union representatives and a plenary session composed of three panel discussions.

On Dec. 9 there are planned to be eight visits to the EU

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Around EE Times Europe



Bluetooth low energ RF remotes (and mu a year

There has been little the rollout of Bluetooth wireless technology (low power Bluetooth) since the hype the merger of Nokia's Wibree Allian Bluetooth SIG back in June 2007.



Analyst: EMS/ODM s out recession storm

The global electronic manufacturing business fare better than other industry in the down expected to show modest growth t next, according to market research



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POLL

How do you think R&D spending will fare in 2009?

- R&D spending will broaden and speed up
- It will intensify, narrow the focus
- No different to previous years
- Market exits means there's less need to spend
- There's less money to spend and it must be made to last longer
- From now on many firms won't be doing R&D, they will buy it in

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by four groups composed of the SEMI European Advisory Board members. There is a networking reception planned for 5:30pm at 62, Rue du Trone.

On Dec. 10 registration and a networking breakfast are due to take place from 7:45am at 44, Rue du Prince Albert. The first panel will discuss a vision for microelectronics in Europe. The panelists are scheduled to include Pedro Ortun, Director, European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry, Hans Deppe, general manager of AMD Dresden, Andre-Jacques Auberton-Herve, president and CEO of Soitec; and Enrico Villa, STMicroelectronics; vice president of ESIA and chairman of the board, of Catrene.

The second panel is set to look at R&D and manufacturing. Listed panelists include Dirk Beernaert, head of the nanoelectronics unit within the European Commission DG Information Society; Bernd Haeuser, senior vice president of engineering and manufacturing at Robert Bosch; Gilbert Declerck, chief executive officer of IMEC; Werner Mohr, vice chairman of programs within Catrene and Francois Escher, of Freescale Semiconductor; co-chair of the ESIA competitiveness task force.



[R&D jobs bear the brunt of restructuring](#)

Nokia is continuing to cut its R&D headcount as it responds to market forecasts for 2009 and will cut a further 10% in production, sales and marketing as its focus on fewer but stronger res which will see headcount at its Res by 130.



[Will robots be taking over jobs?](#)

About 50% of the jobs in manufacturing will be taken over by robots between 2030 and 2050, says Marshall Brain, an EETimes columnist and "Robotic Nation."

[Nokia outlines strategy to take Symbian to 'next level'](#)

Nokia disclosed the company's strategy for Symbian from the currently proprietary S60 Symbian operating system to the a release of its assets to the open source market.

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