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no comment

David Manners

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If the European semiconductor companies don't invest in semiconductor production facilities in Europe then the EC will support investment by foreign companies, Khalil Rouhana (*pictured*), director for components and systems in the EC's DG CONNECT project, told the European Nanoelectronics Forum 2014 in Cannes this morning.



Rouhana reiterated the target of his former boss, EC vice-president Neelie Kroes, to double the output of semiconductors manufactured in Europe with the target of obtaining a 20% world market share.

The budget for increasing manufacturing in Europe to meet this target is €20 billion over the next ten years.

Asked by Electronics Weekly how the EC expected to achieve that target with Europe's Big Three chip companies having no plans to build significant front-end wafer production capacity in Europe, Rouhana replied: "We have asked the CEOs. We have talked to each of them, one by one, to get a complete picture of their investment plans.

"What we are about is investment in Europe whoever decides to invest," added Rouhana, "if it is not for the companies around the table today, then it is open to investment from somebody else."

While the EC is focusing some of its money on European areas of strength like MEMS, Rouhana was quite clear about his general aspiration. "We have an ambitious plan to reverse the decline in market share in the whole of the semiconductor field."