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Mannerisms



There's Still Hope

2 comments

David Manners

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The good news about today's European Nanoelectronics Forum in Cannes today is that speaker after speaker referred to the goal of gaining 20% semiconductor market share by 2020.

Many had thought that the attitude of Europe's Big Three chip manufacturers to the programme set up by Neelie Kroes had killed off the plan because the Big Three seemed flat against building significant new wafer capacity in Europe.

But it turns out that all is not lost. Somewhat surprisingly, the EC has taken the ballsy view that if the Big Three won't do it, they'll find someone who can.

This, of course, can be smaller European players but it can also be foreign companies, said the director of components and systems at DG Connect, Khalil Rouhana.

An investment programme of €1.23 billion, of which €530 million was contributed from public funds, has been started to build pilot lines for four areas: next gen CMOS, MEMS and sensors, power and embedded electronics and materials and equipment.

Over the next ten years another €20 billion will be spent moving these lines into volume production capability.

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