

European Nanoelectronics Forum 2009

This year, the Netherlands hosted the European Nanoelectronics Forum, which was held on November 17 and 18 in Noordwijk. The conference, organized by the European organizations ENIAC and CATRENE, covered the latest technological developments and projects in the field of nanoelectronics. The aim of the conference was to further strengthen the cooperation between the ENIAC and CATRENE programs by jointly defining roadmaps and projects. In addition, results from various programs were presented and poster sessions were held.

The future of the semiconductor industry in Europe was also a major topic of the conference. The general opinion was that, with (more) cooperation and focus, there were still plenty of opportunities for the European industry.

The conference was opened by Maria van der Hoeven, Minister of Economic Affairs. In her speech she emphasized the importance of nanoelectronics for Europe. The Netherlands attaches great importance to this industry and therefore invests a substantial amount every year through programs such as Point One. She indicated that for the future of the industry it is important that there is good cooperation between the various programs.

Government as launching customer

This appeal was perfectly in line with the argument from Rene Penning de Vries, NXP's CTO, and chairman of the governing board at ENIAC and member of the CATRENE board. Rene outlined a perspective in which the European semiconductor industry can make an important contribution to solving social problems in the area of energy, safety and mobility. If the European industry joins forces in those areas, a greater market share can be gained. He also appealed to the government to act more firmly as 'consumer' (launching customer) for entirely new applications and processes, such as for example mileage tax or innovative lighting.

Jean-Pierre Noblanc award

Later that evening the prestigious Jean-Pierre Noblanc award was presented. Two NXP projects were nominated: the NanoTEST and LoMoSA+. Kees Veelenturf was the project leader for both these projects. Unfortunately these projects ended up just outside the prizes.