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IMEC calls for true collaboration

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Only international collaboration will allow Europe to continue playing a competitive role in nanoelectronics and related fields, claims Gilbert Declerck, pictured, president and ceo of Belgian research centre IMEC.

"As the market and the competition has become global, research centres must work together with companies worldwide and borders should not create limitations," he claimed.

"Therefore, we call on Eureka to set up the means to stimulate true cross border collaboration with appropriate cross border funding schemes."

IMEC supports the goal of Eureka programs – such as CATRENE (Cluster for Application and Technology Research in Europe on NanoElectronics) – to stimulate cross border collaboration in order to improve Europe's economic prosperity and to reinforce its ability to be at the forefront of global competition. "This matches our vision of helping to guarantee a competitive position in a global market," said Declerck. "Therefore, we expect a lot from Eureka and programs like CATRENE, ITEA2 and Celtic. However, Eureka is only funded locally, with funds which are mainly meant to support local players within a country or a region, not to stimulate cross border collaboration between, for example, research organisations in one country and companies in another."

According to Declerck, the rules and the means – 16.7% from the EC for all participants involved in a collaborative project, topped up by local funding for partners of Member States participating in the yearly ENIAC and ARTEMIS calls – are not sufficient to increase the level of European cross border collaboration. This, he claims, puts companies and institutes located in smaller countries and targeting major activities in a European wide context in a less favourable position compared to those in larger countries.

"IMEC regrets this and would like to go on strengthening Europe by collaboration that is not limited by country borders. We will have to get our act together in these very competitive times and implement a true single market for European research," he concluded.

Author

Graham Pitcher

Supporting Information

► <http://www.imec.be>

