



SEMI Global Update—Europe Edition, May 2008

European Synergy

In March, SEMI concluded three key events that confirm some of my best hopes and expectations for the European high technology industry. At ISS Europe, leaders from every leading technology segment offered critical insights into European competitiveness and growth opportunities. Many speakers and attendees were confident of the continued contributions from research consortia such as IMEC and Fraunhofer and the promising successes of R&D projects like JESSI, MEDEA, MEDEA+, CATRENE and ENIAC.

At the PV Fab Managers Forum, we learned that Germany's Q-Cells has overtaken Sharp as the world's leading producer of solar cells and that the world's demand for clean, renewable energy will not abate in our lifetimes. Cell and module makers from Taiwan, Japan, the U.S. and other locations outlined their needs for cost reduction, new materials, service and support, equipment integration and automation, and many other specifics. The third event in Europe was our Spring Standards event. At this 3-day event, productive standards discussions were held to address both semiconductor and PV industry needs, and company tours were conducted at AMI Semiconductor and Photovolttech.

At the conclusion of this busy month, I am struck the continued opportunities for innovative technology companies in Europe. While mega-fabs may be locating in Asia, smaller, nimbler, more flexible fabs in Europe for MEMS/MST and semiconductors will continue to prosper and European technology and ingenuity will play a leading role in solving the world's energy and environmental needs. I am also firmly convinced that many of the collaborative activities and processes that facilitated the growth of global chip market—such as industry standards—are vital to the PV market, and that many other synergies are possible between the two industries. Leveraging regional strengths, learning from the past, and boldly attacking the future will keep European technology firms at the center of some of the most exciting technology opportunities of our time.

Heinz Kundert
President, SEMI Europe
www.semi.org/europe