Medea+ turns roadmap making on its head

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Medea+, the pan-European research programme for microelectronics, has turned the traditional process of drawing up a technology roadmap on its head to get a better picture of what European chipmakers and embedded systems R&D teams should be working on over the next five years.

Speaking at the recent Medea+ Forum, Roel Kramer, who is in charge of the applications roadmap, said: "It is a new type of roadmap. Normally, you map out where you should be a couple of years from today in terms of the technologies needed. You can regard this as being supply driven."

"We have turned this around and looked at user needs: a demand-driven roadmap."

The team working on the roadmap decided to look at what user demands would be in 2012 to be able to develop a research roadmap for the years to 2008, when phase two of the Medea+ programme is expected to complete.

Kramer said there was a pressing need for Europe to develop its own standards for secure communications. "We need to maintain Europe's independence in all segments of security products. Otherwise, it would imply that a foreign agency would be able to decipher European communications," he said.

He added that interoperability would be a key need for wearable devices. "People will wear more and more valuable devices that they will expect to work together even if they come from different vendors," said Kramer.