

The Lennox Report

December 8, 2004

The **MEDEA+ Forum 2004** recently held in Paris was a great success both as to attendance and the quality of presentations covering key problems such as the future of fabless companies in the face of complex advanced technologies, the success of European-developed and made SmartCards where Axalto claims world leadership in microprocessor cards such as for mobile communication and financial transactions with governmental security cards the next frontier. Philips' van der Poel again pleaded for more government support for ICT activities now only receiving €1B out of the EU's €93B budget, same as spent on tobacco subsidies. IMEC's Hugo de Man analyzed challenges to bridge the future technology design gaps while European solutions point to an era of open innovation where partners trust each other even if competing, such as the Grenoble cooperation of ST, Philips and Freescale, and a special effort for leadership in nanoelectronics. China is forecast to become the electronics manufacturer by 2005 with a 41% world share compared to only 9% in 2001.