



## **European Ministers for Industry visit Crolles2 Alliance's Leading-edge R&D and Process Center**

*Crolles2 Alliance members, Freescale Semiconductor, Philips and STMicroelectronics, welcome French and Dutch Ministers for Industry, local authorities and the Chairman of MEDEA+ to their leading-edge R&D center, near Grenoble, France, dedicated to developing future generations of semiconductor manufacturing technology*

**Crolles, France, April 7, 2005** – Today, the Crolles2 Alliance facility in Crolles near Grenoble, France, was visited by senior ministers from the French and Dutch governments: Mr. Patrick Devedjian, Minister for Industry for France; and Mr Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, the Minister for Economic Affairs for the Netherlands.

Also attending the event were local authorities Mr Michel Bart, Prefet of Isère, Mr François Brottes, Deputy, Mr Richard Cazenave, Deputy, Mr Jean Claude Paturel, Mayor of Crolles, Mrs Nicole Sechaud, Mayor of Bernin, the chairman of MEDEA+, Mr Arthur van der Poel, the Netherlands' ambassador, Mr Christian Kröner and senior management from the three Crolles2 Alliance members.

The visit by the two Ministers for Industry was a high-level acknowledgement of the excellent relationship enjoyed between the French and Dutch microelectronics industries, of which the Crolles2 Alliance is the foremost example. The Alliance addresses the common R&D interests of the three partners. It also contributes to key European programs for advanced co-operative R&D such as MEDEA+. The program brings together corporations, universities and research establishments, primarily from European countries but now also including companies headquartered outside Europe, but with essential R&D in Europe, such as Freescale.

The Crolles2 R&D center pioneers leading-edge CMOS technology, starting at the 90-nm and 65-nm process nodes and developing down to 32nm. The facility also includes a 300-mm wafer semiconductor manufacturing pilot line, which is now producing wafers in 120-nm and 90-nm technologies. At the same time, the 65-nm process is in the qualification stage, with 45-nm now in development at the facility. The close coupling between R&D, pilot line and volume production has been an important factor in the Center's success, including its recent delivery of the world's first 65nm design platform.

"The Crolles2 facility is a superb example of a world-wide center of excellence in R&D, enabled by the technology expertise in Europe, in general, and the Grenoble region specifically," said Alain Dutheil, Chief Operating Officer, STMicroelectronics, who was the host for the event. "We are delighted that this has been recognized at a senior level in the French and Dutch government administrations and by European R&D programs like MEDEA+. The Alliance is a business model for the future of semiconductor R&D, by not

only sharing costs and risks but also accelerating the development and rapid deployment of advanced technology.”

“The success of this unprecedented R&D alliance is a perfect example of the effectiveness of the cooperative philosophy fostered by MEDEA+ and its parent programs JESSI and MEDEA,” said Arthur van der Poel, Chairman of MEDEA+.

The Grenoble area is one of the world’s most advanced hubs of high-tech and microelectronic research – thanks to more than two decades of consistent policy by the French central and local authorities to encourage public-private partnerships in the sector.

In fact, the Crolles2 Alliance has strongly benefited from the outstanding pool of competence in the region, as well as close cooperation with leading local engineering schools and labs, including CEA-LETI, France Telecom R&D and other cutting-edge centers in France, Belgium (IMEC) and the USA.

### **About the Crolles2 Alliance**

The Crolles2 Alliance, in its present form, was created in April 2002 when Freescale (then known as Motorola Semiconductor Product Sector) joined the previously existing alliance between Philips and STMicroelectronics, which had started in 1992. Additionally, TSMC, the world’s largest semiconductor foundry, also participates for process development and alignment. The Crolles2 Alliance facility already has more than 1,000 engineers and researchers and by the end of 2005 the members of the Alliance will have invested \$1.4 billion and created more than 1,200 direct jobs on the site and 4,500 indirect jobs in the region.