




# CATRENE programme to succeed MEDEA+

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MEDEA+, the EUREKA pan-European Programme for advanced co-operative Research and Development in Microelectronics, has announced details of the new EUREKA programme called CATRENE (Cluster for Application and Technology Research in Europe on NanoElectronics) that will take up the challenge of increasing Europe's strength in micro- and nanoelectronics after the highly successful MEDEA+ programme reaches its conclusion in 2008.

A public/private partnership aimed at ensuring the continued development of European expertise in semiconductor technology and applications, CATRENE will build on the success of MEDEA+ and the previous EUREKA programmes JESSI and MEDEA in fostering the continued development of a dynamic European ecosystem with the critical mass necessary to compete at a global level in high technology industries as these move into the era of nanoelectronics.

Like MEDEA+, CATRENE embraces all key actors in the value chain, including applications, technology, materials and equipment suppliers, as well as involving industrial companies of all sizes, universities and other research institutions, supported by Public Authorities. In this way CATRENE will benefit from the strong infrastructure for cross-border cooperation that has been developed by MEDEA+ and its predecessors.

An important feature of CATRENE is the concept of Lighthouse Projects, which address major socioeconomic needs such as transportation, healthcare, security, energy and entertainment through focussed R&D programmes. In the foreseeable future, the role of electronics and information systems will further increase as European society is faced with structural problems such as ageing of the population, exploding healthcare cost, transportation bottlenecks, rising energy costs and the need to increase productivity to be competitive on a worldwide basis.

These societal challenges are also major opportunities for European industry and are designed to help European companies to address these new lead markets and to become worldwide market leaders. The "umbrella" lighthouse projects will serve as a focus for specific technology and applications development projects that address these challenges.