

MEDEA+ raises big funding issues for European R&D

Europe's nanoelectronic industry is determined to master the ever increasing technical challenges in their domain and advocates a long term accord with National and European Governments to achieve more innovation and economical growth.

At its annual FORUM, held last year in Paris on November 23rd and 24th MEDEA+ illustrated its strong contributions in micro- /nanoelectronic technologies and applications. In his opening speech, Patrick Devedjian, French Minister of Industry, welcomed the more than 300 participants from almost all EUREKA countries. He pointed out, that the EUREKA formula ('bottom-up', lean and flexible organisation) has always been a strong asset in supporting Europe's economy. He is looking forward that the upcoming 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission will offer clear opportunities for enhanced coordination, aiming at increasing Europe's competitiveness.

With 54 projects running or successfully ended in MEDEA+ Phase 1, equivalent to cumulated resources spent in advanced R&D of almost 14,000 person-years, MEDEA+ has proven to be a strong driver for European nanoelectronics innovation.

In memory of the late MEDEA+ Chairman, the most innovative and sustainable project, so far carried out in MEDEA+, has been honoured. The trophy was awarded to a Technology Project, "T201 CMOS logic 0.1 μm and below" on the development of next generation basic CMOS process. Main European semiconductor and equipment companies together with leading institutes have been cooperating and achieving essential European breakthroughs (Air Liquide, Aixtron, Bull, Epichem oxides and nitrides, IMEC, INPG/CNRS, Jobin Yvon, Leica Microsystem Lithography, LETI, LTM/CNRS, Philips, STMicroelectronics).

Only 15 months later, the fabrication process has been introduced into manufacturing lines at Crolles II and is set for other fabs in 2005. The follow-up project for 65nm logic processing has already been completed and STMicroelectronics has hailed it as a world first, which allows its designers and customers to start developing next-generation System-on-Chip (SoC) products for low-power, wireless, networking, consumer, and high-speed applications, (see Process News Special Focus for further insight).

Source: Semiconductor Fabtech