

EUROFOCUS

A new public/private R&D initiative will replace the **MEDEA+** program for European cooperative R&D in microelectronics, which is set to expire in 2008 after seven years of watching over three generations of CMOS technology and work on fields ranging from smart cards, image sensors, and automotive electronics. Unlike predecessors JESSI, MEDEA, and MEDEA+, which split programs into technology and applications subprograms, **CATRENE** (Cluster for Application and Technology Research in Europe on NanoElectronics), a 4-8 year program requiring about &euro6B/year (US \$8.65B), will emphasize convergence, focusing on large identified application markets from which required technologies will be derived.

AMD, Carl Zeiss SMT, and Qimonda AG are forming a &euro12M (US ~\$17.4M) "innovation center" in Dresden, Germany ("Silicon Saxony"), under a larger "Nanoanalysis" project to develop new analytical and characterization methods for next-gen chip development. The center will utilize ultrahigh-resolution particle beam systems to image, analyze, and process specimens in support of characterization of 3D semiconductor structures and development of new materials for chip fabrication.

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