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Nanoelectronics R&D programme nearing EU approval

by **David Manners**

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After a tortuous gestation, [ENIAC](#) (European Nanoelectronics Initiative Advisory Council), the new EU R&D programme, should be approved this month by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

It is hoped that, by the end of next year, Euros 42.5m, representing the first tranche of a total Euros 3bn spend between 2008 and 2013, will be spent on ENIAC projects.

The first call for ENIAC project proposals is set for Q1 2008.

ENIAC is a Framework Programme 7 initiative, which falls within the Joint Technology Initiative and the Eureka programme, and has been financed by EUROSANT. ENIAC works with the Public Authorities Mirror Group and the Strategic Regional Agenda Working Group with its six sub-groups. It will work alongside another research initiative called ARTEMIS. ENIAC's project funding arrangements will be done through the AENEAS office.

The sheer complexity of the bureaucracy is putting off SMEs from applying to join such projects, said Heinz Kundert, president of SEMI Europe, at the ENIAC conference in Budapest.

ENIAC's sphere of interest will parallel that of [CATRENE](#), i.e. communications, healthcare, security, entertainment and infotainment, energy saving and the environment and transportation.

"We will be working with CATRENE to make sure our programmes are synergistic", said Rosalie Zobel, director of components and systems at the information society and media directorate of the EC.

The difference is that CATRENE is to be funded solely by national governments whereas ENIAC will be funded by a mix of national governments and the EC. The EC is putting in half a Euro for every Euro committed to approved ENIAC projects.

Vice-chairman of ENIAC is Alain Dutheil, COO of [STMicroelectronics](#) who pointed out to the ENIAC conference that, of 31 European technology platforms proposed to the EC, only four have qualified, of which ENIAC is one.

See also: [The Mannerisms blog](#), with chip industry musings from David Manners