



European
Semiconductor
Industry
Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESIA welcomes the approval of the second IPCEI on Microelectronics

Today, European Commissioner Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager has approved the Important Project of Common European Interest on Microelectronics and Communications Technologies (IPCEI ME/CT). The European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA) welcomes the approval, as participants can now formally launch their innovative projects.

Announced in December 2021 and scheduled to run until 2032, the IPCEI ME/CT is supported by 14 EU Member States and gathers 56 direct and 30 associated participants from the European semiconductor ecosystem, many of which are ESIA members. With total public funding of € 8.1 billion augmenting already-intensive investment from the industry in Europe, it advances complex research & development & innovation projects in strategic microelectronics and communication technologies. In today's highly competitive environment, the IPCEI is a key instrument for European semiconductor companies pushing research & innovation in Europe to thrive in the global marketplace. Semiconductor innovation is providing much-needed solutions to the two key societal challenges: digital transformation and environmental transition.

The approval of the IPCEI-ME/CT is welcomed by the European semiconductor industry. In recent years, no other instrument has supported transformative innovation as the IPCEI. Maximising its leverage and benefits for the EU economy should be a key objective of public and private actors alike. ESIA appreciates the intention of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to make the IPCEI instrument "*faster to process, easier to fund and simpler to access for small businesses and for all Member States*"¹. Its ambitions can only be achieved through swift implementation of the projects submitted by large & small European innovators. IPCEIs can support projects up to first industrial deployment, which is a crucial ability to function as a catalyst for innovation in the European semiconductor industry. ESIA believes that its amplification effect for technological sovereignty continues to benefit the Single Market, and its further development will be a competitive advantage for the EU.

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About ESIA: *The European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA) is the voice of the semiconductor industry in Europe. Its mission is to represent and promote the common interests of the Europe-based semiconductor industry towards the European institutions and stakeholders in order to ensure a sustainable business environment and foster its global competitiveness. As a provider of key enabling technologies, the industry creates innovative solutions for industrial development, contributing to economic growth and responding to major societal challenges. Being ranked as the most R&D-intensive sector by the European Commission, the European semiconductor ecosystem supports approx. 200.000 jobs directly and up to 1.000.000 induced jobs in systems, applications and services in Europe. Overall, micro- and nano-electronics enable the generation of at least 10% of GDP in Europe and the world.*

¹ European Commission (17/01/2023). *Special Address by President von der Leyen at the World Economic Forum*, Press corner. URL: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_23_232 (retrieved 08/06/2023)