

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, November 28, 2003

Upturn speeds up -

European Semiconductor Market in October 2003

The October WSTS data are amplifying the positive trends observed in the already strong Q3. The market recorded the strongest sequential growth in one month since March 2002 (+6.8%). The demand for semiconductors was strong all across the board, translating into generally high billings for commodity products as well as for application specific chips. A wide spectrum of driving electronic applications is fueling the growth, especially in automotive, personal computer, consumer and wireless communications. This is contributing to building a more solid base for the current upturn of the semiconductor industry.

Please note: Since September 2003 the data contain now micromechanical actuators in addition to sensors. This new product category has entered a significant volume already and adds an additional 1,2% year to date growth in comparison with last year.

European Semiconductor sales in October 2003 amounted to US\$ 2.971 billion according to WSTS, up +9.3% versus previous month. This corresponds to a +20.8% increase compared to the same month last year. Year-to-date, semiconductor sales increased by +16.1% versus the same period last year.

The exchange rate of the Euro compared to the US\$ has a very significant impact on the growth data at this time. Measured in Euro, semiconductor sales in September were EURO 2.617 billion, an increase of +8.2% versus previous month and an increase of +4.4% versus the same month a year ago. On a year-to-date basis, semiconductor sales decreased by -3.1% versus the same period last year.

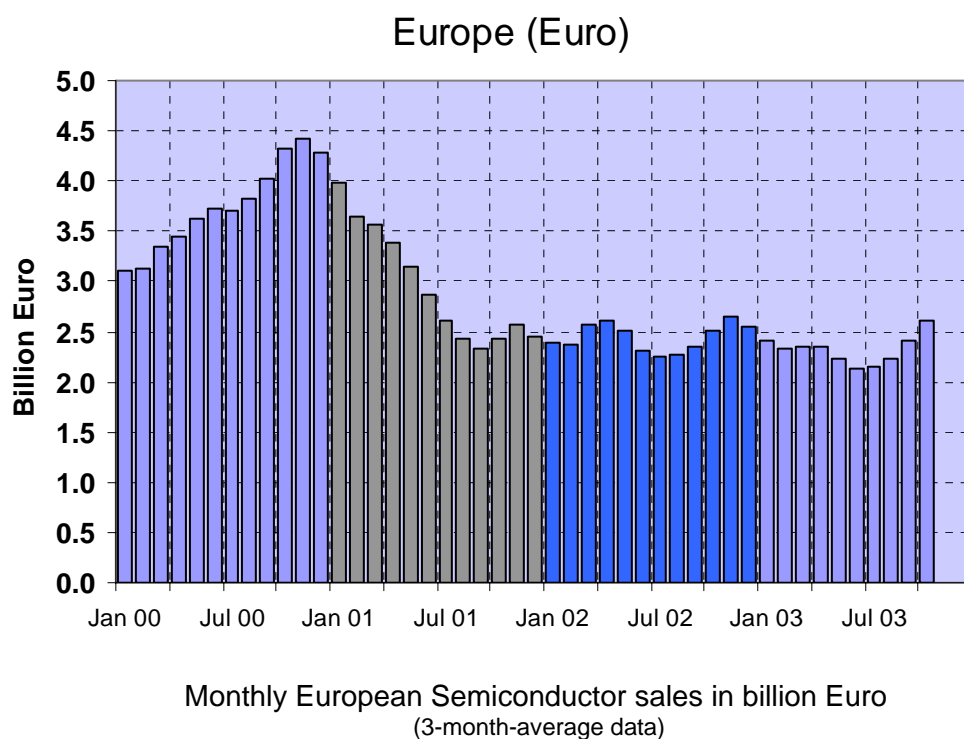
On a Worldwide basis, semiconductor sales in September were US\$ 15.432 billion, up +6.8% versus previous month. This results to an increase of +23.3% versus the same month in 2002 and on a year-to-date basis to a growth of +16.4%.

(for more data please see the tables and graphs on following pages)

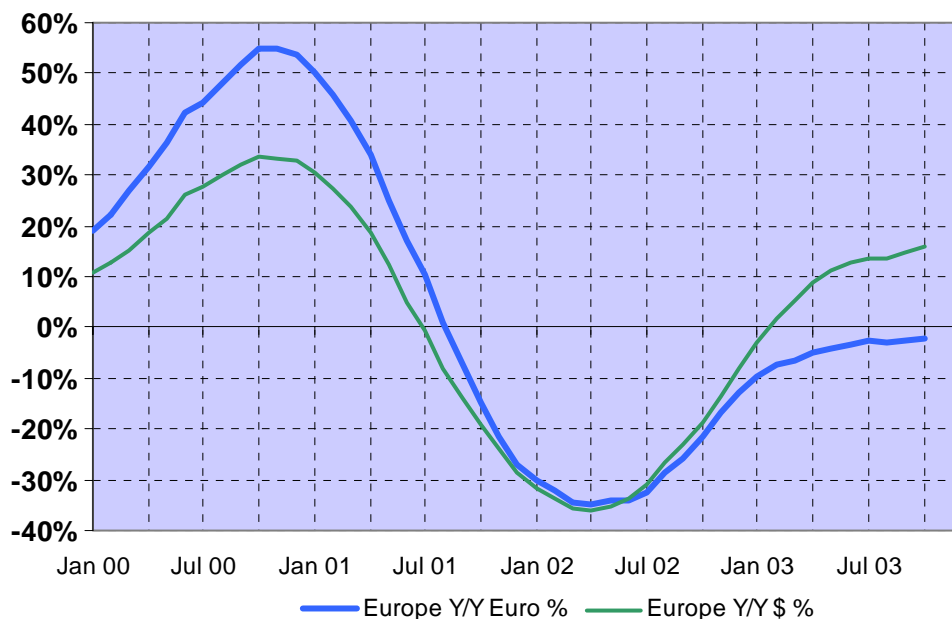
Data Table:

Market data for the 3 month moving average ending:								
Region	sales (in billions)		Month on Month growth		Year on Year growth		YTD growth	
	Sep 03	Okt 03	Sep 03	Okt 03	Sep 03	Okt 03	Sep 03	Okt 03
in \$:								
Europe	2.719	2.971	6.7%	9.3%	17.4%	20.8%	14.2%	16.1%
Americas	2.751	2.936	5.4%	6.7%	4.5%	10.9%	-1.1%	0.8%
Japan	3.362	3.560	4.6%	5.9%	18.9%	24.8%	25.4%	26.0%
Asia Pacific	5.619	5.965	8.1%	6.2%	24.5%	31.0%	18.7%	20.4%
World	14.450	15.432	6.5%	6.8%	17.6%	23.3%	14.8%	16.4%
In EURO:								
Europe	2.419	2.617	8.3%	8.2%	2.9%	4.4%	-4.7%	-3.1%
Rate (\$/Euro)	1.122	1.169	14.0%	19.2%	< Euro against \$ versus prev. Year			

(Unless otherwise indicated, all figures are 3-month-average data.)



Trend Growth in Dollar versus Growth in Euro



European Semiconductor sales growth in %
Annualized growth trend (Y/Y) in Euro and Dollar
(12-month-average data)

WSTS monthly data in full product detail are available via subscription. For more information please contact the EECA-ESIA office under secretariat@eeeca.be

About EECA and ESIA

The European Electronic Component Manufacturers Association (EECA) is an association grouping of four autonomous industry associations with members coming from the manufacturing and related industries as well as from national associations. Their goal is to promote and defend the vital interests of the European Electronic Components Industry and to support its competitive position in the global marketplace. The four associations are European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA), European Display Industry Association (EDIA), European Passive Components Industry Association (EPCIA), European Packaging and Interconnection Industry Association (EPIA). EECA is a chartered member of the World Semiconductor Council. More information can be found at <http://www.eeca.org>.

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