

**Press release 18 June 2004,
ITEA and MEDEA+ Mid Term Assessments**



EUREKA Clusters ITEA and MEDEA+ continue full speed ahead

EUREKA clusters are strategic programmes aiming at improving the European industry competitiveness. They widely contribute to the European Research Area through flexible international co-operative projects allowing to concentrate R&D forces on strong priorities. The EUREKA clusters have set performance objectives which include a regular assessment of their results.

Public Authorities who financially support these programmes have recently ordered Mid Term Assessments of the two largest EUREKA clusters ITEA ($\Sigma!$ 2023, embedded and distributed software: estimated total size € 3.200 million) and MEDEA+ ($\Sigma!$ 2365, semiconductor technology: estimated total size € 4.000 million) to independent companies. In accordance with these assessments, both programmes are running according to plan and should continue. The outcome of the assessments states the importance of structured initiatives for strategic technologies in the micro-electronics and software technologies areas, making it possible to gain critical mass to address key fields for the competitiveness of European industry. Therefore, ITEA and MEDEA+ contribute to help achieving the Lisbon goal (making Europe the most competitive and dynamic-knowledge based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion with, amongst other measures, a 3% of GDP invested in R&D by 2010).

The Public Authorities recently gathered in the ITEA and the MEDEA+ Directors Committees and officially approved the two Mid Term Assessment reports.

The Public Authorities selected two independent consultant companies: IDATE/TNO as contractor for the ITEA Mid Term Assessment and Technopolis/VDI-VDE-IT for the MEDEA+ Mid Term Assessment. The main objectives for the Mid Term Assessments were:

- ❑ to benchmark the current status of the Clusters relative to their own objectives and current state and trends of the industry and related technologies; and
- ❑ to give recommendations for the future direction of the programme.

Background information

Public versions of the ITEA and MEDEA+ Mid Term Assessments are available on request at the EUREKA secretariat

- **About EUREKA** (www.eureka.be)

EUREKA is a pan-European initiative for market-oriented, industrial R&D projects, founded in 1985 and which now gathers together 33 member countries and the EU.

EUREKA supports the competitiveness of European companies through international collaboration, in creating links and networks of innovation. The objective is to bring high quality research and development efforts to the market and to use the multiplying effects of co-operation. The aim is to advance and improve the quality of life.

EUREKA is tackling the challenge of a swiftly changing business environment and offers a platform for short-term as well as strategic collaboration. It offers flexible and dynamic support, a quality label and expertise for market-oriented R&D projects.

- EUREKA offers a framework for co-operation to small and large companies alike and operates through its network of members from Iceland to Turkey, from Portugal to Russia, while always remaining open to global co-operation.

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Main results of the ITEA Mid Term Assessment

- The ITEA programme as a whole is well on track.
- IDATE/TNO states that "there is coherence between the objectives of ITEA and the observed results".
- The current results of the programme are good and the activities have led to a significant improvement of use, mastery and application of software technologies and tools by European companies.
- The co-operation within ITEA projects was generally effective, with quite a positive impact.

IDATE/TNO recommends to continue the ITEA programme and to keep most of its global functioning. Some improvements can be made however:

- More attention should be given to software producers (tools and applications);
- A more pronounced standardisation strategy should be developed;
- More emphasis should be placed on the goal of achieving industrial applications and products;
- Extra efforts should be made to speed up funding decisions and to synchronise national funding decisions;
- The ITEA Technology Roadmap could be used to help position the various IST and ITEA projects.

Background information

- **About ITEA (www.itea-office.org)**

Information Technology for European Advancement - ITEA - is Europe's premier co-operative programme for pre-competitive research and development in embedded and distributed software.

Established in 1999 as a EUREKA Cluster , ITEA supports co-ordinated national funding submissions, providing the link between those who supply finance, technology and software engineering. By issuing annual Calls for Projects, evaluating projects and helping bring

research partners together, ITEA plays a prominent role in European software development. Some 8,000 person-years of R&D have been invested in the programme so far.

ITEA-labelled projects build vital middleware and prepare standards, laying the foundations for the next generation of products, systems, appliances and services. These projects are industry-driven, involving complementary R&D from at least two companies in two countries. The programme is open to partners from large industrial companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as public research institutes and universities.

Founding companies include Alcatel, Barco, Bosch, Bull, DaimlerChrysler, Italtel, Nokia, Philips Electronics, Siemens, Thales, and Thomson, later joined by the European Federation of high-tech Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). These firms are all leaders in their field, whether in automotive, telecommunications, mobile communication, consumer electronics or information technology.

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Main results of the MEDEA+ Mid Term Assessment

Apart from the main objectives already mentioned, the MEDEA+ Mid Term Assessment was also focused at: comparing and contrasting MEDEA+ with other international initiatives and considering how these findings might impact upon the strategy for European R&D in microelectronics.

The MEDEA+ assessment marks the start of the second four-year period of the MEDEA+ programme. It started 1 January 2001 with a planned duration of eight years. The confirmation of phase two has also been based upon the results of the assessment.

The major findings of the assessment were:

- MEDEA+ provides a European platform for joint developments of prototypes, competencies and standards both horizontally and vertically within the supply chain;
- The majority of the MEDEA+ projects are in line with the ITRS roadmap or with state-of-the-art research activities. In some areas Europe is slightly ahead or keeping up with competition (e.g. 90nm CMOS technology, IC technology integration) and in some areas clear leadership is shown (e.g. lithography);
- MEDEA has produced an Applications Technology Roadmap: a unique feature in the applications area;
- MEDEA+ is well organised as a programme and forms a lean and flexible organisation.

Technopolis/VDI-VDE-IT makes the following recommendations:

- The unique position of MEDEA+ in the sense that it is an industry led European collaborative research programme justifies a continuous support by the public authorities in phase two;

- Given the substantial changes in the global playing field it is essential that MEDEA+ defines a clear vision and strategy on the key issues for Europe in micro/nanoelectronics in the future;
- An even closer co-ordination between EUREKA initiatives like MEDEA+ and programmes and initiatives by the EU is encouraged. It can lead to more synergy and more effective use of funding;
- MEDEA+ should increase the emphasis on SMEs and high tech start-ups, as new market opportunities very often come from these types of companies.

Background information

About MEDEA+ (www.medeaplus.org)

MEDEA+ is the industry-driven pan-European Programme for advanced co-operative Research and Development in Microelectronics. It has been set up and labelled within the framework of EUREKA (E! 2365) to ensure Europe's continued technological and industrial competitiveness in this sector. The EUREKA label was granted by the Ministerial Conference in Hanover on 23 June, 2000.

MEDEA+ started in January 2001 and focuses on "system innovation on silicon".

The central objective of the multi-project MEDEA+ programme is to stimulate innovation and provide the technology platform which will allow the European microelectronics industry to stay in the group of world-wide leaders. This trans-border co-operation will move our economies into the Information Age, contributing to the creation of higher added value and increased employment.

MEDEA+ key data

The eight-year MEDEA+ programme (2001 - 2008, in two phases of four years each), channels private and public funding into microelectronics research & development projects. They associate semiconductor manufacturers, their suppliers, system companies and design houses, private research institutes and the academic world. This co-operation helps participants to share know-how and speed-up projects. It reduces cost and the big risks inherent to innovative high-tech R&D.

In line with the International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors (ITRS), the MEDEA+ technology projects prepare the basis for advanced applications worldwide. The applications projects proposed by the system houses and their semiconductor suppliers, cover a broad spectrum of market areas and prepare the foundations for market-leading Information and Communication Technology development in Europe.

MEDEA+ founding companies are Alcatel, ASMI, ASML, Bosch, Bull, Ericsson, Infineon, Philips, STMicroelectronics, Thomson Multimedia and Zeiss.

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