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In light of the economic crisis, the creation of ECSEL is a worthy public-private initiative and the improvements it will bring to Europe's competitiveness and indirectly to the EU citizens are going to be considerable.
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It is no secret that, in our daily life, we have come to rely more and more on electronic components and systems; these technologies and the solutions that they provide are the very basis of our everyday devices, such as mobile phones and computers. Electronics are good for businesses and they have a huge potential for creating growth and jobs in Europe.

But we need to work together and focus on common goals in order to remain competitive in Europe. To help Europe and European businesses rise to the challenge, the European Commission adopted, on May 2013, a "European Industrial Strategy for Electronics [3]".

One of the key actions of this strategy is the creation of ECSEL [4], a Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) designed to maintain semiconductor and smart systems design and manufacturing capability in Europe. ECSEL will come from the merger of the two existing Joint Undertakings on embedded computing systems (ARTEMIS [5]) and nanoelectronics (ENIAC). [6]

Let me explain to you why the creation of ECSEL is relevant not only for electronics business, but for all industry in Europe and its citizens. ECSEL will help Europe to secure the supply of key electronic components and systems technologies needed for health, security or the environment. Europe needs to be independent from other regions when it comes to these technologies and should keep up to date with technological progress.

ECSEL will pool resources at European, national and regional level, avoid duplication of efforts and above all stimulate innovation along value chains thus creating jobs in all sectors of the European industry. Moreover, ECSEL will support EU policies for growth and contribute to other actions at EU level.

I have also good news for researchers and innovators: one of the tasks of ECSEL is to help research and innovation in this area overcome obstacles and become more effective.

Last but not least, ECSEL will allow industry to set a long-term strategic research and innovation agenda and work towards a common goal.

The operational activities of ECSEL will be initiated over the period 2014-2020 with a running down phase over 2021-2024 with no new actions being launched.

The partners in the ECSEL Joint Undertaking will be:

- the European Union (through the Commission);
- Member States and Associated Countries to the Framework Programme Horizon 2020 on a voluntary basis;
- 3 private industrial associations representing the actors from the areas of micro-/nanoelectronics, smart integrated systems and embedded/cyber-physical systems

- Components & Systems [7]

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