

Title: Call for tenders: Study on the changing role of intellectual property in the semiconductor industry – including on non-practising entities – SMART 2013/0005

Purpose of this call for tenders:

The European Commission will launch soon a call for tenders for a service contract of a maximum value of EUR 60 000.

This study will firstly focus on the expected changes in IP strategies and patenting practises of the semi-conductor industry due to the concentration/specialisation, the emergence of foundries and fabless, technological developments in the sector and the appearance of non-practising entities (NPE). Secondly the study will focus on the effects these developments will have for the further development of the global semiconductor sector in general and the European clusters in particular.

The study is about how the IP-strategies and patenting behaviour of the global and the European semi-conductor industry will develop in the coming 10 years as a result of a changing IP regime (including monetisation, Single European Patent, different IP development models...), about what the effect will be on the competitiveness of the European semiconductor industry and about the appearance of NPE's.

The study will take into account 3 possible scenarios:

- An increased importance and influence of the IP business with increased company specialisation and the arrival of new actors, possibly from non-historical regions, including BRICS.
- A possible re-internalisation of developments in fabless and IDM companies due to the reduction of advanced IC manufacturing actors.
- A stagnation of IP business due to insufficient harmonisation between actors for efficient IP block integration by purchasing companies.

Interested economic operators can express their interest to participate in the call for tender until **23/10/2013** in writing to cnect-a4@ec.europa.eu .

The pre-selection criteria applied for this call are:

1. Practical experience in the above mentioned fields:

The study will highlight the essence of patents and IP strategy in the semiconductor sector and reveal differences and similarities in the development of the patent portfolios of European and Global players in the field of semiconductors as a result of a number of new developments and trends in the area of IP:

- a) Expected influence of sector specific issues like the need to co-operate due to soaring costs of R&D, shortened time-to-market and to the need/existence of standards.
- b) Expected influence of NPEs and Monetisation policies on patent policies of Global and European players and their different strategies.

- c) Expected influence of the new Single European Patent on the development of patent portfolios of Global and European players and possible differences among European Regions
- d) Expected influence of EU policies such as KETs on the patent portfolio and IP strategy of European Industry.
- e) Expected development in terms of competitiveness of European industry including SMEs in the field of semiconductors as a result of the above mentioned trends and developments.

2. Relevant experience in the field of microelectronics and IP

Evidence of pre-selection criteria

The following **evidences** must be provided in respect of each of the pre-selection criteria identified above and included in the email expressing the interest to participate in the call for tender by 23/10/2013 and sent to cnect-a4@ec.europa.eu :

- **List of contracts for studies and services** provided in the past three years (2010, 2011 and 2012), or being currently provided in the field of microelectronics and IP

- **CVs of staff involved**

Processing your reply to the ex-ante advertisement will involve the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, any personal data requested are required to assess your capacity to participate in the call for tender and will be processed solely for that purpose by the Data Controller. You are entitled to obtain access to your personal data on request and to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. If you have any queries concerning the processing of your personal data, you may address them to the Data Controller. You have the right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor for matters relating to the processing of your personal data.

For the purpose of this ex-ante advertisement, the Data Controller shall be the Head of the Unit in charge of this call for tender. Any queries concerning the processing of personal data of the Candidate can be addressed by e-mail to the following contact person: CNECT-DATA-PROTECTION-COORDINATOR@ec.europa.eu by indicating the reference of the ex-ante advertisement.