



Press release

"Semi40" strengthens Europe's economy with the "learning factory"

Munich, Germany, and Villach, Austria – May 31, 2016 – The research project Semi40 ("Power Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing 4.0") led by Infineon Austria was launched today. In this project 37 partners from five countries will carry out research into further developing autonomous factories. The common goal is the next stage in the development of Industry 4.0 applications. With a volume of 62 million euros, the research project is one of the largest Industry 4.0 projects in Europe.

"The European project will make a major contribution to keeping and strengthening production and jobs in Europe, thus contributing to a stronger business and technology location," said Sabine Herlitschka, Chief Executive Officer of Infineon Austria. "From this cross-border cooperation all partners will profit and generate competitive advantages." Infineon Austria will contribute substantial know-how to the project thanks to its pioneering role in Industry 4.0 in Austria. The "Pilot Room Industry 4.0" in Villach offers ideal conditions for trying out new manufacturing processes in live operation.

The focus is on two fields "made in Europe"

Semi40 will focus on "smart production" and "cyber-physical production systems" in the next three years with secure data traffic playing a key role within and outside factories. In this regard the project's aim is to develop processes that ensure secure communication between globally connected systems with different features – for example, in terms of age, operating system or interfaces. Potential impacts on production should be drastically reduced thanks to early identification of risks from malware.

Another major focus is the development of dynamic simulations. They enable production to be planned more exactly and efficiently, as well as quality, capacity utilization and cycle times to be improved.

Decisions in the production process are often routine ones and based on defined patterns. In future, the systems should increasingly make these decisions themselves – automatically and with a constant level of quality. In doing so, the people are relieved of exhausting routine giving them more time for more complex tasks.

Factories not only learn at all times, but must also be adaptable: To be able to respond faster to changes along the entire supply chain, production processes must adapt more flexibly to changes – in the configuration, flow of goods or customers' order behavior, for example. The advantages are energy savings and more efficient use of resources overall.

Social impact on the jobs of the future

SemI4.0 will also research the social impact on the jobs of the future: Industry 4.0 will change work functions and qualifications of employees in the long run. The requirements of future job profiles need to already be taken into account now. They increasingly entail system-oriented working and necessitate training and qualification measures that reflect the changes in production processes. As a result of these further developments, SemI4.0 will help secure more than 20,000 jobs at the companies involved. The project partners have a total of around 300,000 employees worldwide.

Kick-off event with high-ranking representatives

As befits the importance of SemI4.0, the kick-off event staged by Infineon Austria in Villach was attended by high-ranking project partners. The funders and policymakers were represented by Willy van Puymbroeck, Bert De Colvenaer, Michael Wiesmüller and Gaby Schaunig: Van Puymbroeck is Head of Unit in the Directorate General CONNECT at the European Commission, Bert De Colvenaer is Executive Director of ECSEL Joint Undertaking, Michael Wiesmüller is Head of the Information and Industrial Technologies and Space Travel at the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), and Gaby Schaunig is Deputy Governor of the State of Carinthia.

As a private-public partnership, SemI4.0 will increase the global competitiveness of the European electronics industry. It pools investments from industry, individual countries and ECSEL (Electronic Components and Systems for European Leadership) Joint Undertaking. Apart from investments from industry, SemI4.0 is co-funded by grants from Austria (BMVIT), Germany, France, Italy and Portugal and by ECSEL Joint Undertaking.

Infineon heads further European research project

A further European innovation project headed by Infineon Technologies Dresden was launched in May 2016: "IoSense" (short for "Internet of Sensors"). Its focus is on sensors and sensor systems for the Internet of Things. The companies conducting research are providers of Industry 4.0 solutions. Infineon is addressing the main aspects of Industry 4.0 with the user-oriented project SemI4.0 and the provider-oriented project IoSense. By initiating these innovation projects, Infineon is underscoring its commitment and leading role in semiconductor production in Europe.

Seml40 unites the strengths of 37 partners from five countries

Austria: Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH, Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik Aktiengesellschaft, AVL List GmbH, Fachhochschule Burgenland GmbH, Fraunhofer Austria Research GmbH, Infineon Technologies Austria AG (project management), Infineon Technologies IT-Services GmbH, KAI Kompetenzzentrum Automobil- und Industrieelektronik GmbH, Know Center, Virtual Vehicle Research Center, Forschungsgesellschaft mbH, Materials Center Leoben Forschung GmbH, Plansee SE, Vienna University of Technology, University of Klagenfurt;

Germany: ELMOS Semiconductor AG, Mittweida University of Applied Sciences, Fraunhofer Society for the Promotion of Applied Research, Infineon Technologies AG, Infineon Technologies Dresden GmbH, Institute for Automation and Communication in Magdeburg, Metralabs GmbH Neue Technologies und Systema, PLASMETREX GmbH, Roth & Rau - Ortner GmbH, Robert Bosch GmbH, Schiller Automatisierungstechnik GmbH, Semikron Elektronik GmbH & Co. KG, Systementwicklung Dipl.-Inf. Manfred Austen GmbH, Dresden University of Technology, znt - Zentren für Neue Technologien GmbH;

France: Ion Beam Services;

Italy: L.P.E. SPA, Politecnico di Milano, Università degli Studi Pavia;

Portugal: Critical Manufacturing SA, Instituto de Telecomunicações - Pólo de Aveiro, Nanium S.A., Universidade de Aveiro.

About Infineon Austria

Infineon Technologies Austria AG is a group company of Infineon Technologies AG, a worldwide leading supplier of semiconductor solutions to make life more simple, secure and more environmentally friendly. Micro-electronics by Infineon reduces the energy consumption of consumer electronics, household devices and industrial installations. It contributes considerably to the comfort, safety and sustainability of vehicles and provides secure transactions in a connected world.

Besides Germany, Infineon Austria is the only site capable of meeting competencies for research & development, production as well as global business responsibility. Its headquarters is based in Villach, further branches are located in Graz, Klagenfurt, Linz and Vienna. With about 3,500 employees (1,300 of whom are in research & development) from around 60 nations, the company achieved a turnover of €1.4 billion in the 2015 fiscal year (ending in September). Infineon Austria is the most research oriented company in Austria with a research quota of 25% of the total turnover.

For more information, visit www.infineon.com/austria

Contact and further information

Mag. Alexandra Wachschütz

Phone: 051777-18169, E-mail: alexandra.wachschuetz@infineon.com

Infineon Technologies Austria AG, Communications

Siemensstraße 2, 9500 Villach

Follow us: twitter.com/Infineon - facebook.com/Infineon - plus.google.com/+Infineon