

Chips for Europe Initiative - Milestone event for first pilot lines

The European Commission has hosted a ceremonial event to mark the launch of the first five pilot lines under the Chips for Europe Initiative.



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This milestone event is bringing together Executive Vice-President Henna **Virkkunen**, leading representatives from research and technology organisations driving [the pilot lines \(https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/europe-commits-semiconductor-innovation-new-testing-facilities\)](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/europe-commits-semiconductor-innovation-new-testing-facilities), representatives from the Member States, and the Executive Director of the Chips Joint Undertaking. The event took place on **Thursday, 16 January**, at the European Commission headquarters in Berlaymont, Brussels, and the occasion is featuring a ceremonial celebration and a roundtable discussion on the future of European semiconductors.

The launch of these pilot lines represents a major step forward for Europe's semiconductor ecosystem, aligning with the [European Chips Act's strategy \(https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-chips-act\)](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-chips-act) to bridge the gap between laboratory innovation and industrial-scale manufacturing. This initiative underscores Europe's commitment to master advanced chip technologies. The pilot lines are supported by a total of EUR 3.7 billion in funding, comprising contributions from the European Union through the [Horizon Europe \(https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en\)](https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en) and [Digital Europe \(https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme\)](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme) Programmes, as well as commensurate investments from participating Member States.

Focusing on five key areas - beyond 2nm leading-edge system-on-chip, fully depleted

silicon-on-insulator applications, advanced packaging, wide band gap materials, and photonic integrated circuits - the pilot lines will act as collaborative hubs for research institutions, academia, and industry. Following their initial setup, the pilot lines will provide open access to state-of-the-art research facilities, accelerating experimentation, process development, and validation of cutting-edge semiconductor technologies. This effort is designed to foster technological capacity, strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness, and drive innovation across diverse sectors.

Read more about [the Chips for Europe Initiative](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-chips-act)
(<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-chips-act>).

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