New Multilateral Agreement - June 1999
10 June, 1999

New World Semiconductor Council
Unveiled in Brussels

Brussels - The members of the Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ), the European Electronic Component Manufacturers Association (EECA), the Korea Semiconductor Industry Association (KSIA) and the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today announced the Agreement Establishing a New World Semiconductor Council (WSC). The Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association (TSIA) became a new member of the WSC in 1999.

The industry - level Agreement was welcomed by the Joint Statement Concerning Semiconductors By the Governments of the United States, Japan, Korea and the European Communities that was finalized today. Membership in the WSC is open only to major chip producing countries or regions that have committed to eliminate their semiconductor tariffs. Governments and authorities that support the principles of the Joint Statement, and whose industry associations qualify for membership in the WSC, may become parties to the Joint Statement. Taiwan became a party to the Joint Statement today.

The WSC seeks to foster open markets, and to address issues such as standardization, environmental concerns, worker health and safety, protection of intellectual property rights, trade and investment liberalization and market development. The WSC meets annually with the parties to the Joint Statement to discuss these issues.

The industry-level agreement replaces the 1996 Agreement Between EIAJ and SIA on International Cooperation Regarding Semiconductors. The Joint Statement replaces the 1996 Joint Statement by the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan Concerning Semiconductors.

For additional information, please contact:
EECA (Brussels, Belgium) - Eckhard Runge, 32-2-646-5695
EIAJ (Tokyo, Japan) - Tamotsu Harada, 81-3-3213-5861
KSIA (Seoul, Korea) - Ki Man Lee, 82-2-576-3472
SIA (San Jose, California) - Daven Oswalt, Daryl Hatano, 01-1-408-436-6600
SIA (Tokyo) - Roger Mathus, 81-3-3237-7683
TSIA (Hsinchu, Taiwan) - Sophia Li, 886-3-591-7092