Press Release

SINGAPORE'S SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

Industry remains an important pillar of Singapore's economy with new opportunities in emerging areas such as autonomous vehicle and Internet of Things

Singapore, 14 November 2018 – The 50th anniversary of the semiconductor industry was marked today with a celebratory dinner event attended by more than 1,000 members of the industry including veterans and decision makers from global and local businesses, academia and future talent.

Organised by Singapore Semiconductor Industry Association (SSIA) and supported by Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), the event was graced by Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies.

Key Pillar of Singapore's Economy

Semiconductors were identified as a key segment of Singapore's economic development shortly after independence in 1965. Efforts to attract international companies to build high-tech manufacturing facilities resulted in the opening of Singapore's first semiconductor facility in 1968, when National Semiconductors set up an assembly and test facility along River Valley Road. More than 7,000 jobs were created in just three years by the first three semiconductor companies to set up operations. These were National Semiconductor, Fairchild and Texas Instruments.

Singapore continued to steadily grow its semiconductor industry over the next fifty years; both in terms of anchoring more activities across the value chain including integrated circuit (IC) design, wafer fabrication, assembly and tests, and manufacturing of equipment and substrate as well as depth of capabilities by pursuing innovation and harnessing the latest manufacturing technologies and processes.

Today, Singapore is home to a vibrant and rich ecosystem of semiconductor companies such as GlobalFoundries, Infineon, Realtek, UTAC and Micron. The semiconductor industry's fixed assets investment in Singapore stands at over S$50 billion.

"The talents, creativity and drive in our semiconductor industry has been instrumental in Singapore's growth and transformation and we should now step forward to build upon that momentum to innovate and create Smart Cities of the future," said Mr Ang Wee Seng, Executive Director, SSIA.

Advanced Manufacturing to Shape Future of the Semiconductor Industry

The advent of the fourth industrial revolution will impact the semiconductor industry in two ways: One, the emergence of exciting new applications areas such as autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence and healthcare will result in greater diversity of demand for semiconductor content; Second, the adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies by semiconductor companies will transform the way manufacturing is done as it moves towards a smart factory that is more intelligent, productive and resource efficient.

"EDB is honoured to commemorate this significant milestone for Singapore. The semiconductor industry has been pivotal to Singapore's economic development over the past five decades, alongside our journey from third world to first and providing good jobs for generations of Singaporeans," said Mr Pee Beng Kong, Director, Semiconductors, EDB. "Today, the industry continues to be a key growth engine in Singapore. Semiconductors are at the heart of critical technologies, such as artificial intelligence and smart factories that will build a more connected and intelligent future. Singapore is excited to work with industry to co-create solutions that will inspire future generations and change how we live, work and play. We look forward to another 50 years of partnership with the industry."

"The growing adoption of new technologies in industries such as transportation, healthcare, finance and many others will drive demand for semiconductor solutions, spurring new innovations and creating new exciting jobs for future generations. Today the semiconductor industry is stronger than ever. 2017 was a banner year for us, as output grew by almost 50% year on year. With endeavour and enterprise driven by hard work and perseverance, I am confident that we can work towards another 50 years of growth," added Mr Ang.

The semiconductor industry[1] remains a mainstay of Singapore's economy, with an output of nearly S$100 billion, or roughly a third of Singapore's manufacturing sector output and contributing 4.5% to GDP in 2017. The industry provides 42,000 workers, or 12% of the manufacturing workforce, with good job opportunities.

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About SSIA
Singapore Semiconductor Industry Association (SSIA) has more than 160 members today including companies and organisations throughout all parts of the complex and comprehensive value chain - IC design companies, Manufacturers, Fabless companies, Equipment suppliers, Photovoltaic companies, EDA and material suppliers, Training and service providers, IP companies, research institutes and Academia, as well as individual members. Since 2013, SME membership has grown exponentially and SMEs now account for close to half of SSIA's membership.

For more information about SSIA, please visit: https://ssia.org.sg/

For more information about Singapore Semiconductor 50 and its full list of sponsors, please visit: https://ssia.org.sg/semicon50/

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[1] Source: EDB Research and Statistics Unit (2017 prelim numbers). Semiconductor and semiconductor equipment manufacturing activities in Singapore employed 42,947 workers in 2017. Singapore's total manufacturing workforce was 371,922 in 2017.