



**Semiconductor world looks forward to Chinese industry's first participation in world forum.
ESIA's President *Carlo Bozotti* speaks of "major breakthrough..."**

Following the signing ceremony in Beijing on June 15 and a good two years of talks involving both industry and governments, the Chinese Semiconductor Industry Association (CSIA) formally applied for membership to the World Semiconductor Council (WSC). This step acknowledges the growing importance of the Chinese industry as a global stakeholder in a market which grew around 32% in 2005 and which has now reached the size of that in Europe.

Carlo Bozotti, CEO and President of STMicroelectronics and President of ESIA commented on behalf of the European WSC delegation "This is a major breakthrough which will also bring European and Chinese industries closer and which will make the WSC continue doing what it has done very well in the past. This means providing an open forum to promote a free and fair global trading environment for semiconductors, potentially diffusing conflicts before they escalate and making progress on those pre-competitive issues which are common to the semiconductor industry worldwide."

Brain Halla, CEO of US-based National Semiconductor and this year's Chair of the WSC was at the signing and commented for the US association (SIA): "China's domestic semiconductor industry would benefit from active involvement in the WSC, which has become an increasingly important forum for cooperation to protect intellectual property, eliminate trade barriers, lower costs to consumers, and preserve the environment."

The ceremony continues a history of bringing the global industry closer together. The first common meeting under the WSC framework including CSIA is now likely to take place in September and hosted by the Japanese association (JEITA-JSIA).

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