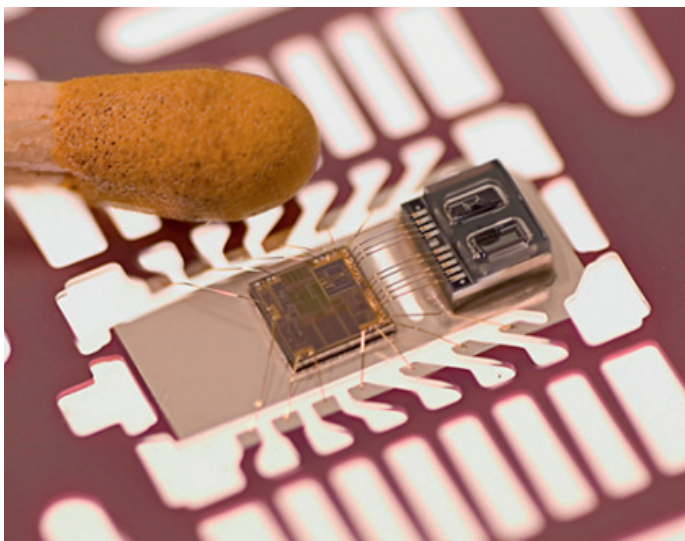


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NCE Micro- and Nanotechnology is the result of a long-term commitment to microtechnology in the region of Vestfold. The companies in the cluster comprise the most important commercial arena for micro- and nanotechnology in Norway, playing a leading role in Norwegian electronics and ICT. Most of the companies in the cluster are international leaders in their product areas – marketing and selling their products to major, demanding international customers.

Strategy & Objective

The overall objective of NCE Micro- and Nanotechnology is to promote the growth and renewal of the companies within the cluster, and to establish new companies with international potential. The dynamic MNT community has been cultivated so that internationally leading companies continue to choose this region to develop and grow. A viable, well-coordinated regional innovation system is under development to facilitate commercialization and future value creation to continue well past the funding term of the NCE project.

Microtechnology companies in the cluster benefit from increased sales and better utilisation of new solutions in miniaturization and the application of micro- and nanotechnology. NCE Micro- and Nanotechnology promotes the development of new start-up companies, and support job creation within the cluster. Efforts are also made to obtain funding for various projects from the EU, the Research Council of Norway, Innovation Norway, the European Space Agency and other funding sources.

Background

Miniaturization in electronics is a key trend throughout the ICT sector and continues to develop at a rapid pace. To increase packing density and performance, international research is being conducted in several new technology areas related to 3-dimensional integration and interconnection. This will require completely new technologies for use in product development, construction and assembly. The anticipated impact of this trend will be vast, and challenges the Norwegian electronics industry to keep pace with enhancement of expertise as well as continued establishment of laboratories that are adequately equipped to conduct experiments and produce test products and prototypes. With new technology comes the potential to establish new companies that must be oriented to the global market. In addition, developing new technologies takes time, and achieving profitable turnover on a new product usually takes at least five years.

This means that activities must be planned in a long term perspective. NCE Micro- and Nanotechnology member companies benefit greatly from the cluster's globally leading expertise and extensive international experience.

Initiatives & Projects

The projects carried out by NCE Micro- and Nanotechnology are grouped around the following main areas of activity:

- Further develop the existing network
- Increase product development as a basis for commercialization
- Increase technology activities and R&D within cluster companies
- Implement trend analyses and strategic processes
- Establish new study programmes, a research centre and infrastructure
- Internationalization