

The Council membership includes two Canada-based consortia: Strategic Microelectronics Consortium (SMC) of Kanata and Telecommunications Consortium of Canada (TCC) also of Kanata (based at Newbridge Networks). The Council was formed to lobby the U.S. government to give more prominence to science and technology issues on the national economic agenda. Its stated objective is to "sustain the vitality of technology development, transfer and application". It was formally decided at the last meeting, held in Kanata recently, that the Council would extend membership to Canadian consortia due to Canada's special status under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Consortia are being formed in a variety of industries, for example, the motion picture industry, television, chemicals and forest products, with concentrations in the automobile, telecommunications, and electronics industries.

One of the better known consortia in the U.S., of those receiving government funding, is the Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC). Created in 1982 by the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), its mission is "to encourage increased efforts by manufacturers and universities in long term semiconductor research, and to add to the supply and quality of degreed professional people."⁵⁴ SRC research goals are focused on generic chip technology that meets customer-defined requirements. At one time, SRC did not accept foreign members. However, this has changed due to the efforts of Techware, a Canadian supplier of semiconductor manufacturing equipment, who lobbied the corporation and the U.S. government for access with the assistance of Industry and Science Canada (ISC) and External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC).

In contrast to SRC, the Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology Consortium (SEMATECH) was established in 1987 with the goal of developing manufacturing process (as opposed to product) technology for member companies. Research objectives include: a) a reduction in the time required to produce new semiconductors (the inter-generation time) by 25%, b) the development of modelling and simulation tools to permit the introduction of new products with less demand for successive phototyping, and c) the development of more systems capability. Half the budget, approximately US \$100 million, comes from the Advanced Research Programs Agency (ARPA), a division of the U.S. Department of Defense. Small suppliers affiliated with SEMATECH have formed an umbrella organization called Semi-SEMATECH which has a single seat on SEMATECH's Board of Directors.

⁵⁴ The late Dr. Robert N. Noyce, SIA Chairman, from the press release, December 16, 1981.