



Press Release

Ralf Bornefeld elected as the new Chair of KDT Joint Undertaking

Brussels, 14 December 2021

Dipl.-Ing. Ralf Bornefeld has been elected as the first Chair of the newly formed Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking (KDT JU). With more than 30 years of experience in the semiconductor field (from SME to large enterprises), he is currently a Senior Vice President of Automotive Electronics division at Robert Bosch GmbH. He succeeds Dr Sabine Herlitschka, CEO/CTO of Infineon Austria, as chair of the predecessor ECSEL JU.

Ralf Bornefeld: “I want to thank the Governing Board for its trust, and I promise to contribute to my very best to building a strong ECS community in Europe. Key technologies like semiconductors, with applications critical to our society such as communications, healthcare, green energy, aerospace - just to name a few - need to be anchored well in Europe.

Europe needs to catch-up where needed and stay at the forefront of digital technologies, and this requires cooperation that is intrinsic to a joint undertaking, and decisive and quick actions to compete with fast-moving regions. With the tripartite financing model, we have established the way forward: we can turn the situation to the better, but we need to make it happen together. We shall need to keep the right balance between HW, SW and systems to serve applications to the best. It's time to move... Now.”

Bert De Colvenaer, KDT JU's Executive Director, declared: “I think I can speak on behalf of all of our stakeholders in very much welcoming the election of Dipl.-Ing. Ralf Bornefeld. Continuing the great work done by Dr. Sabine Herlitschka, I am sure he will consolidate and expand further our community, at all levels of the ECS technology supply chain. In this special moment of semiconductor crisis and huge transformation, it is essential to ensure unity around a common vision, and the long experience of our new Chair will be beneficial and of paramount importance to reaffirm the KDT JU ambitions for the future.”

About KDT Joint Undertaking:

The “Key Digital Technologies JU” (KDT-JU) is a Joint Undertaking established in 2021 by the European Union Council Regulation No 2021/2085, as successor to the ECSEL JU, which came into force on 30th November 2021. It is a public-private partnership that will engage, for 2021 to 2032, up to EUR 1.8 billion funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, combining it with a commensurate amount of national/regional funding and participants' own contributions. The KDT partnership, comprising the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, Participating States and 3 European Industry Associations (Aeneas, Inside and EPoSS) will support the digital transformation of all economic and societal sectors, make the transformation work for Europe and support the Green Deal.

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