



**Seminar on
Opportunities & Challenges for “Manufacturing of Electronic
System & Design in West Bengal”**

March 6, 2012 - The Park, Kolkata

To bring national focus on the huge potential and the economic opportunity provided by the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector FICCI, Government of West Bengal and Department of IT, Government of India jointly organized the Seminar on Opportunities & Challenges for “Manufacturing of Electronic System & Design in West Bengal” on 6th March 2012 in The Park Hotel, Kolkata. The Seminar was organised In Association with ESC India, CEAMA, ELCINA, ICA, IOTA, ISA and WEBEL.

Mr. C. K. Dhanuka, Former Chairman, FICCI ERC in his Welcome Address pointed out that while countries like China have a share of more than 30% in global exports of electronics products, India has a share of less than 1% only. With an expected demand supply gap of nearly USD 300 Billion by 2020 in India, this situation needs to be corrected through robust development of the ESDM market.

In his address Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, Chairman, ESC India said that lack of adequate infrastructure, lack of investments in R&D, high level of taxation, stringent labour laws, non availability of quality power and high cost of power are some of the reasons why ESDM remain insignificant in India. Highlighting the important role of electronics in automobiles, medical electronics, media and broadcasting, Mr. A K Mukherjee, Vice President, CEAMA, said that several foreign companies are looking for production base in India to meet the growing demand in this sector. Mr. P. Mohindroo, National President, ICA (Indian Cellular Association), in his address pointed out that a split rate of 4% and 12.5% on mobile phones introduced in March 2010 has led to the growth of Chinese grey market in West Bengal. Mr T Vasu, President, ELCINA applauded the Government’s keen interest to promote Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) with world class logistics and infrastructure and easy to do business facilities.

Mr Basudeb Banerjee, Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce & Industries & IT, Government of West Bengal, in his special address said that the State Government has set up two High Powered Committees on IT Software and Hardware (ESDM) under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sam Pitroda in July 2011 to chart out new initiatives for growth of Information



Technology and Electronic industry in West Bengal. Mr. Banerjee added that the state government is formulating a policy for the growth of the hardware sector in West Bengal.

Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of IT, Government of India, pointed out that the pervasive deployment of electronics in areas such as automobiles, telecom, power, railways, civil aviation, etc. renders tremendous strategic importance to the sector. Dr. Kumar pointed out the importance of using technology to address the problems of developing world. Speaking on the draft National Policy on Electronic 2011, Dr. Kumar pointed out the following highlights of the policy:

- To facilitate setting up of Semiconductor Wafer Fab facilities and its eco-system for design and fabrication of chips and chip components.
- To provide Preferential Market Access for domestically manufactured/ designed electronic products
- To provide preferential market access in Government procurement for electronics products manufactured in India
- To provide incentives for setting up Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) with world class logistics and infrastructure and easy to do business facilities.
- To create an Electronic Development Fund to promote Innovation and IP and R&D, commercialization of products, etc. in the ESDM, nanoelectronics and IT sectors by providing appropriate funding/incentives to Industry/Academic/R&D institutions.

Mr Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister, Department of Commerce & Industries, IT, IR&PE and Parliamentary Affairs, GoWB delivered the Inaugural Address. Hon'ble Minister said that Government of West Bengal shall make efforts to promote the development of an integrated eco-system for Hardware sector in the state through setting up of Hardware Hubs in the major cities such as Durgapur, Haldia, Siliguri, Falta, Asansol and Bardhman. The IT department through West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation (WBEIDC) shall develop these hubs through Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Hon'ble Minister added that for West Bengal to derive maximum growth centric advantage, focus is needed on research and innovation and suggested that 'Research and Analysis Wing' and 'Knowledge Hubs' could be set up in the state in PPP mode.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr Jaijit Bhattacharya, FICCI Executive Committee Member and Director, H.P India.



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