

# 'Global players are now enthusiastic about India'

Bharat is well poised to become a global semiconductor manufacturing centre, and a surge of proposals is expected. Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Minister **ASHWANI VAISHNAW** tells Surajeet Das Gupta in New Delhi now investors are asking how soon they can come to India. Edited excerpts:

**While we are starting with the higher nodes, what is our plan in the next few years? Where do we want to go from here?**

We are starting with the 28 nm node. Over the next five years, we will absorb this technology and co-develop lower nodes. We have two potential partners who are willing to help Bharat move towards smaller node manufacturing technology. We would like to move towards this journey after assimilating 28 nm technology.

**What is the research and development plan so that we are also able to make technology indigenously? What are the steps being taken? What is the time frame for this?**

We are developing SCL Mohali as a research and development fab. It will do commercial manufacturing also. It

will be developed with an investment of about ₹10,000 crore.



**ASHWANI VAISHNAW**

Communications, electronics and IT minister

**What is the potential of India becoming a manufacturing centre for semiconductor machinery? What are the steps that we have taken and what is the response we are getting from global players?**

With three factors — a large talent pool, availability of green energy for manufacturing, and a globally trusted country — Bharat is well poised to become a global semiconductor manufacturing centre. We have had good success in a short period since launching the ISM (India Semiconductor Mission). Over the next five years, we will build upon this foundation. We will also leverage the

design ecosystem that we have for developing some major chipsets. Global players are enthusiastic now. Earlier they were asking, should we go to India? Now they are asking, how soon can we go to India?!

**How much subsidy will be required in the next five years? After how many years will subsidies end?**

Over the next five years, we anticipate a surge of similar magnitude in proposals. The success of our current projects is acting as a catalyst, attracting major players in the semiconductor industry to invest in India. Given the pace of expenditure, with a substantial amount utilised in two years, a proportional financial commitment over the next five years seems reasonable. Subsidies will remain a critical component until sufficient projects gain approval.

**What is the kind of global play in semiconductors we are looking at in terms of setting up plants abroad?**

The world today trusts India thanks to PM Narendra Modi's leadership; beyond the concept of "friendshoring", the world will consider "trust-shoring" for doing business. In our pursuit of semiconductor excellence, our primary focus remains developing a comprehensive ecosystem within India.

However, we recognise the strategic advantage of Indian semiconductor companies collaborating to establish fabs outside India.

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