

# ‘India’s talent pool, policies make it unique for semiconductor bets’

SOURABH LELE

Gandhinagar, 28 July

India’s talent and the government policies to provide a favourable environment have made the country an attractive location for the semiconductor ecosystem, said Prabu Raja (pictured), president, Semiconductor Products Group (SPG), Applied Materials.

The US-based company, which provides materials engineering solutions for chip manufacturing, last month announced plans to build a collaborative engineering centre in Bangalore, focused on developing and commercialising technologies for semiconductor-manufacturing equipment.

In its first five years of operations, the centre is expected

to create at least 500 advanced engineering jobs, along with another 2,500 in the manufacturing ecosystem.

“We are here for 20 years.

We built the capabilities for product development, engineering, and simulation for many years. It’s more of a rising confidence in our capability. The

government incentives have accelerated and made the scale much larger,” Raja told Business Standard on the sidelines of the SemiconIndia summit, 2023.

Applied Materials has announced it is engaging with more than 40 suppliers and academic institutions as part of its planned engineering centre in Bengaluru. The centre

will be designed to provide access to advanced equipment and processes for suppliers to test and validate their solutions while creating opportunities to

co-innovate, develop, and test equipment subsystems and components to accelerate cycles of learning and speed up adopting new concepts. “We are

building the whole ecosystem for India. These are high-tech suppliers. They provide a lot of plasma and material technologies, gas flows -- extremely critical ones. Bringing those guys is unique,” Raja said.

The centre in Bengaluru is expected to be the first of its kind that will be focused on

working with suppliers.

Raja said though the company had strong teams in multiple countries, the talent pool in India made it unique. “Everyone recognises there is a talent shortage in engineering. (But) India has plenty of skilled people. That is one of the most attractive things about India,” he said, adding “the government is consistent and open to changing its policies to accommodate what the industry needs. The govt is listening to the industry.” Applied Materials operates in six sites of India and has a large organisation of product development, research and development, IT and operations capabilities in the country.

