

Applicable State aid rules for the microelectronics value chain

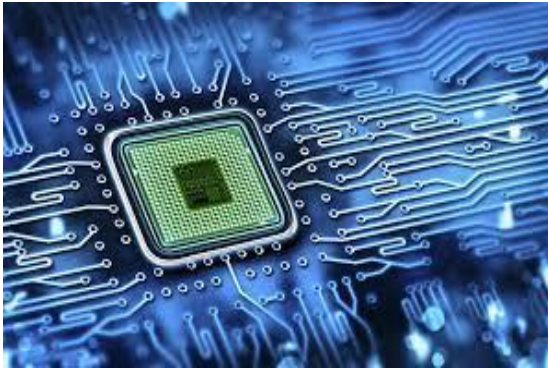
DG COMP Microelectronic IPCEI team

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Specific eligibility criteria of the IPCEI Communication



- **Point 21: R & D & I Projects**
- Major innovative nature or
- Important value added beyond global state of the art



e.g. fundamentally innovative processors and semiconductor technologies



- **Point 22: First Industrial Deployment**
- Develop a new product / service with high R & D content or
- Deployment of a fundamentally innovative production process



e.g. scaling up of technologies (requiring R&D)



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IPCEI Participation

- Direct participants
 - Any company or research organisation that notifies an individual project, participates in the preparation and notification of the Chapeau, participates in the integration of the IPCEI and collaborates with other direct and indirect partners, and commits to various spillover activities
- Indirect partners
 - Any company or research organisation that does not notify a project nor does it participate in the preparation of the Chapeau
 - Indirect partners shall collaborate with direct participants
 - They can participate in the microelectronics ecosystem and value chain, and
 - They can benefit from the spillover activities of the overall IPCEI (or of the direct partners)

The R&D&I Framework & the GBER

- R&D&I projects
- Feasibility studies
- Research organisations (RO) and infrastructures (RI)
- Process and organisational Innovation
- Innovation support and advisory services
- Innovation clusters



- R&D&I Framework: notification to the Commission
- GBER: exemption from notification

GBER: General Block Exemption Regulation

RDIF: R&D&I Framework

To be noted, this is not an exhaustive list, other State aid rules could potentially apply

R&D&I aid under GBER

- No notification
 - For smaller aid amounts, i.e. within the GBER thresholds
 - GBER aid intensities and all general and specific conditions should be met
- Types of aid:
 - Aid to perform R&D projects – **Art. 25 GBER**
 - Aid to perform feasibility studies – **Art. 25 GBER**
 - Aid to RO/RI – **Art. 26 GBER** (investment aid)
 - Aid to Innovation clusters – **Art. 27 GBER** (incl. investment and operational aid)
 - Innovation aid to SMEs – **Art. 28 GBER**
 - Aid for process and organizational innovation – **Art. 29 GBER**

R&D&I aid under the Framework

- Higher aid amounts and higher aid intensities (if justified by the funding gap) possible
- Same types of aid as under GBER
- Notification is necessary
- + new type of aid to Technology Infrastructures as of 2022 proposed in the draft amendments to the RDFI – see public consultation

Research organisations/infrastructures – main principles

- Primary goal: to **independently** conduct research or to **widely disseminate** its results
- RO/RI perform:
 - Primary non-economic activities (**independent research**, incl. **effective collaborative research**)
 - Economic activities (incl. **renting out** of equipment or **contract research**) – but in any case not primary and not predominant - clear separation of the accounts
 - If economic activities are **ancillary only**, the public funding to the RO/RI in total is not considered State aid (see detailed guidance in RDIF, section 2.1.)
 - If economic activities are not ancillary, their public funding is State aid
 - Indirect aid to undertakings should be avoided

Research organisations/infrastructures and IPCEI

- The RO/RI can participate in the IPCEI ecosystem and cooperate with undertakings as an **indirect partner to the IPCEI**
 - i.e. without (pre)-notification and assessment of project portfolio, funding gap, commitments to spillovers and all other IPCEI conditions
 - Responsibility of the MS to correctly apply

For detailed guidance on RO/RI, see RDIF, in particular legal definitions and section 2

Thank you



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