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Semiconductor Industry Honors Champions of Science and Technology

Congressional Leaders and Research Organizations Contribute to U.S. Leadership in Innovation

San Jose, CA – March 18, 2008 – The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) today announced that Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Congressman Bart Gordon (D-TN), and U.S. Undersecretary of the Treasury David McCormick received the association's 2008 awards for advancing U.S. leadership in technology. The SIA also honored the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for their support of basic research in microelectronics. The awards were presented on March 13 during the annual SIA Washington conference.

"Leadership in technology is not a birthright – it must be earned through dedicated work and continuous support of the U.S. 'Innovation Ecosystem,'" said SIA Chairman Willem Roelandts. Roelandts is also chairman of Xilinx Corporation, a manufacturer of programmable logic circuits. "Senator Lamar Alexander, Congressman Bart Gordon, and Treasury Undersecretary David McCormick have contributed significantly to improving the global competitiveness of the U.S. technology sector, and it was our pleasure to honor them for their achievements."

"Congressman Gordon is chairman of the House Science Committee and was a leading proponent and architect of the Democratic Innovation Initiative," Roelandts continued. "He has been a tireless and effective advocate for increased funding for basic scientific research and improving math and science education.

"Senator Alexander was one of the first leaders to recognize and understand the ominous warnings of the 'Gathering Storm' report that detailed the unfolding challenge to U.S. leadership in technology. He has been a staunch advocate for increased funding for university research and improving math and science education," said Roelandts.

David McCormick has played a number of important roles in the executive branch, including serving as deputy assistant to the president and deputy national security advisor. "Secretary McCormick helped formulate the American Competitiveness Initiative and played a key role in modernizing the export control system," said Roelandts. "It is no exaggeration to say that Secretary McCormick has done more than anyone else in the Administration to champion the reforms needed to ensure continued U.S. leadership in technology."

SIA honored NSF and NIST for their sponsorship of research programs aimed at maintaining U.S. leadership in technology as scientists throughout the world are in a race for leadership in nanotechnology and nanoelectronics. Roelandts noted U.S. leadership can be traced to three key milestones: the invention of the transistor in 1947; the invention by Jack Kilby of the integrated circuit in 1958; and the invention by Robert Noyce of the planar integrated circuit in 1959. “These critical inventions by U.S. scientists led to 60 years of U.S. leadership in technology. The basic research sponsored by NSF and NIST is aimed at ensuring continued U.S. leadership as we enter the Era of Nanotechnology,” Roelandts concluded.

Dr. Arden L. Bement, director of NSF, accepted the award on behalf of NSF and Dr. James M. Turner, director of NIST, accepted the award on behalf of NIST.

About the SIA

The SIA is the leading voice for the semiconductor industry and has represented U.S. semiconductor companies since 1977. Collectively, the chip industry employs a domestic workforce of 216,000 people. More information about the SIA can be found at www.sia-online.org.