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SIA Supports Increased Funding for Basic Research

San Jose, CA - February 4, 2008 - The president's proposal for increased funding for basic research is an important step in the right direction, the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) said today.

"We are very pleased that President Bush followed up on his promise in the State of the Union Message to provide increased funding for basic research," said SIA President George Scalise. "The leadership position in technology that the U.S. has enjoyed for nearly 60 years is due in large measure to a sustained commitment to funding basic research at the national laboratories and U.S. universities. In recent years, however, support for basic research has declined as a percentage of GDP. This decline has occurred even as the countries with which America competes are working hard to challenge U.S. leadership in technology."

Scalise noted that much work remains to be done to ensure that the additional funding is included in the appropriations legislation. "Last year, Congress authorized increases in funding for basic research, but the gains we made were not realized due to an impasse that resulted in an omnibus measure. Increased funding for basic research is a common element of both the American Competitiveness Initiative and the Democratic Innovation Agenda. With strong bipartisan support, we are very optimistic that the Administration and Congress will take action this year to fulfill a bipartisan promise," Scalise concluded.

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 232,000 people. More information about the SIA can be found at www.sia-online.org.