Global Semiconductor Industry Calls on Nations to Prioritize Essential Supply Chain Operations During COVID-19

As government authorities craft public health measures to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, including mandatory business closures, **we call on all governments to specify semiconductor industry operations as "essential infrastructure" and/or "essential business" to allow continuity in operations of an industry that powers our global digital infrastructure and underpins vital sectors of the economy.**

In response to the global coronavirus pandemic, the semiconductor industry is focused on ensuring the health and safety of its workers and the continuity of its research, design, and manufacturing operations. Semiconductors are essential components of the technologies that control and enable essential infrastructure and life-critical equipment such as health care and medical devices, water systems and the energy grid, transportation and communication networks, and the financial system.

Semiconductors also underpin the IT systems that enable remote or on-line work, education, and shopping for essential supplies, as well as access to services across every domain, including medicine, finance, education, government, food distribution and more. Semiconductor and related supply chains will be necessary to support the greater range of services that will be digitized in the coming weeks and months in order to keep the global economy productive and to accelerate the recovery.

As the semiconductor supply chain is highly integrated and globalized, semiconductor shortages created by operating restrictions in one region cannot be readily made up by production in other regions. Such shortages lead to line-down situations at electronics factories downstream, and have a ripple effect in our digital economy. We therefore call on all global governments at all levels – central, states/provinces, and localities – to prioritize continued operations for their domestic semiconductor companies and their suppliers by defining the semiconductor industry, its R&D and manufacturing operations and its supply chain as "essential infrastructure" and/or "essential business."

The semiconductor industry is committed to taking all necessary steps to ensure its essential workers remain healthy and safe and to use its critical technologies to assist in the effort to battle the global pandemic.

AmCham Malaysia, Semiconductor Industry Association in China (CSIA), Semiconductor Industry Association in EU (ESIA), Semiconductor Industry Association in Japan (JSIA), Semiconductor Industry Association in Korea (KSIA), Semiconductor & Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI), SEMI, Semiconductor Industry Association in U.S. (SIA), Singapore Semiconductor Industry Association (SSIA), Semiconductor Industry Association in Chinese Taipei (TSIA), Germany Electrical & Electronic Manufacturing Association (ZVEI)

March 27, 2020