

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

- Technum Quebec – Electronics and Semiconductors Innovation Zone in Bromont
- Distriq – Quantum Innovation Zone in Sherbrooke
- MiQro Innovation Collaborative Center (C2MI)
- Université de Sherbrooke
- ISEQ – Pôle d'excellence de l'Industrie des Systèmes Électroniques du Québec
- Conseil du patronat du Québec

AND

- American Chamber of Commerce in Canada – Québec Chapter - Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development - University of Vermont

REGARDING

Bilateral Collaboration in the Semiconductor Industry

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a **structured and continuous dialogue** between key stakeholders in Quebec and the United States. This cooperative effort aims to strengthen the bilateral collaboration in the semiconductor industry to foster innovation, resilience, and mutual economic benefit. In its initial phase, the effort will focus on the **Northeast Semiconductor Manufacturing Corridor (NSMC)**, which spans Quebec and the northeastern United States, including Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts.

2. OBJECTIVES

1. Structured Dialogue

Establish a continuous and organized dialogue between Quebec and U.S. industry leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders to foster cooperation and share strategic priorities.

2. **Resilient and Competitive Supply Chain**

Develop a **robust, resilient, and competitive supply chain** that ensures the uninterrupted flow of goods, services, and critical components within North America.

3. **Policy Coordination**

Create a platform for proactive discussion to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of evolving economic policies, including trade barriers, tariffs, and regulations.

4. **Technological Leadership**

Consolidate a mutually beneficial cooperative effort that positions the Quebec-U.S. corridor as a global leader in **technological innovation** and semiconductor manufacturing, contributing to the economic security and technological sovereignty of both regions.

5. **Northeast Semiconductor Manufacturing Corridor**

Strengthen and promote the **Northeast Semiconductor Manufacturing Corridor**, which spans Quebec and the northeastern United States, including Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts. This corridor represents a strategic alliance to bolster semiconductor innovation, advanced manufacturing, and supply chain integration.

3. **MUTUAL BENEFITS**

The Parties recognize the following shared benefits:

- **Enhanced Economic Security:** By building a resilient supply chain, the cooperative effort will mitigate risks and vulnerabilities that could disrupt national economic stability.
- **Innovation Advancement:** Strengthened collaboration will foster cutting-edge research, development, and commercialization in semiconductors and related technologies.
- **Regional Competitiveness:** The cooperation will elevate North America

as a hub for advanced manufacturing, reducing dependencies on foreign markets.

- **Workforce Development:** Joint initiatives will address workforce needs by enhancing training and talent development opportunities across the region.
- **Strategic Corridor Development:** By leveraging the Northeast Semiconductor Manufacturing Corridor, this cooperative effort will enhance the integration and coordination of key assets and expertise across Quebec and northeastern U.S. states.

4. GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Parties agree to establish a **Joint Steering Committee** composed of representatives from both Quebec and the U.S., responsible for:

- Monitoring progress toward the objectives.
- Identifying opportunities for joint initiatives and investments.
- Coordinating regular meetings to assess the impact of policies and global trends.

5. SECURITY AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

This collaboration is recognized as essential to the **economic and national security interests** of both Parties. A resilient North American semiconductor industry ensures supply chain stability, reduces external risks, and enhances technological sovereignty. The integration of all entities in the Northeast Semiconductor Manufacturing Corridor serves as a critical foundation for advancing these shared objectives.

6. TERM

This MOU will come into force upon signature by the Parties and remain valid for a period of **five (5) years**, with an option for renewal upon mutual agreement.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

If confidential information is shared during the course of this cooperative effort, such information will be governed by separate agreements specifically tailored to specific projects or collaborations. These agreements will ensure the protection of sensitive information and outline the terms for its use.

8. NON-BINDING AGREEMENT

This Memorandum is not intended to create any legally binding obligations between the Parties.

SIGNED ON THIS DATE: January 17th 2025

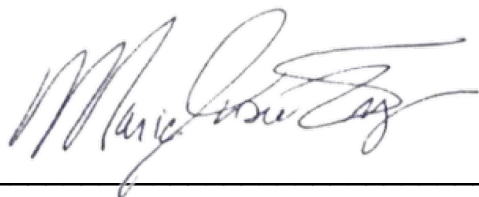
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