ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

AI Chips and Systems for EU Compute Infrastructure

Chips JU Work Programme 2026

Marco Ceccarelli
DG CNECT
European Commission

European Commission

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

What this is about

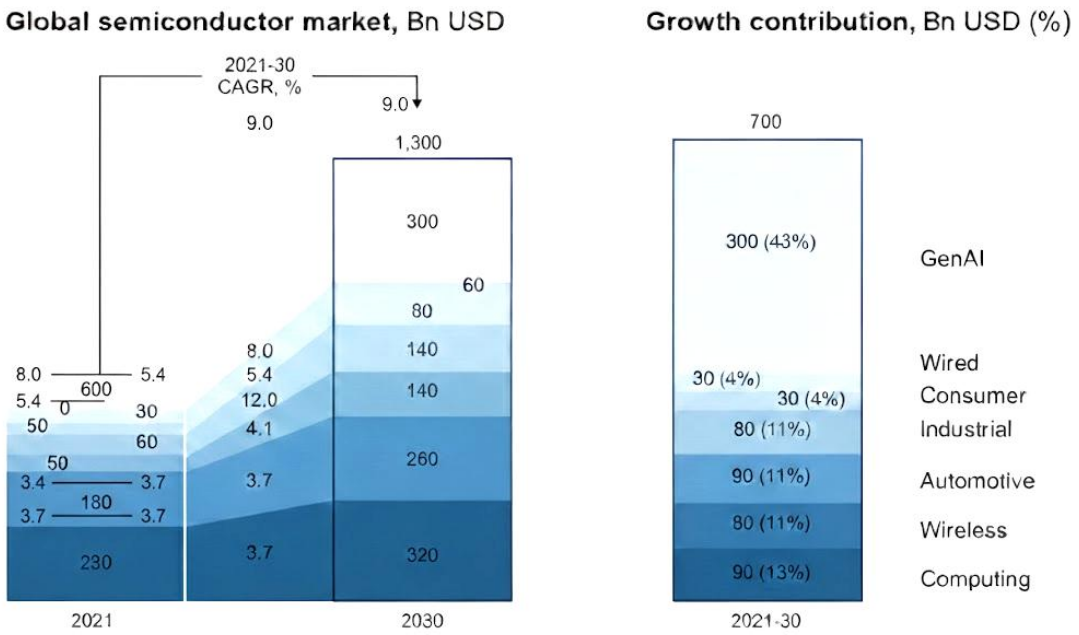
- Reducing overdependencies in AI compute infrastructure
- Stimulating demand for EU technologies
- Supporting scaling of EU fabless
- Developing a reference EU stack

AI semiconductors market

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

Semiconductor market forecast 2030

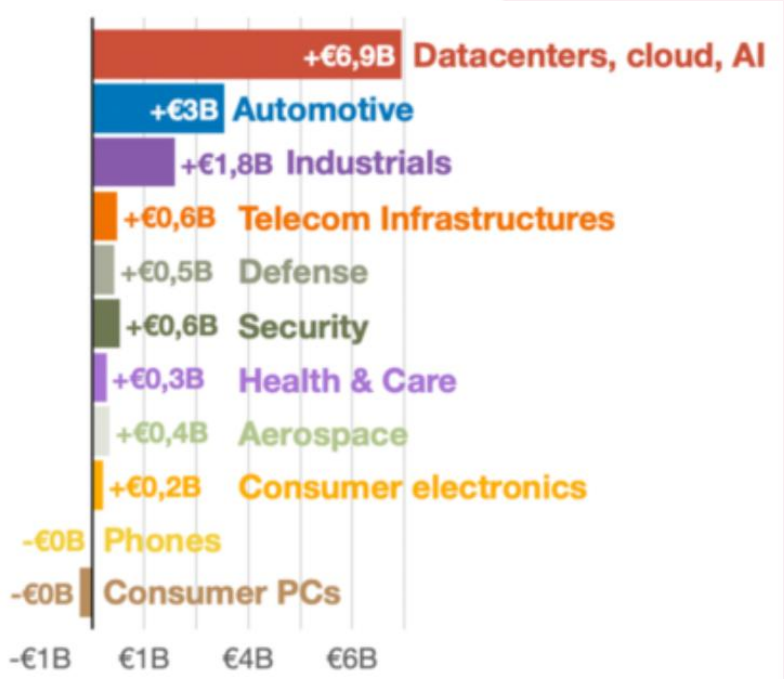
AI expected to represent >40% of growth



Source: McKinsey 2025

EU processor market size forecast 2030

Growth is mostly in datacentre/cloud/AI



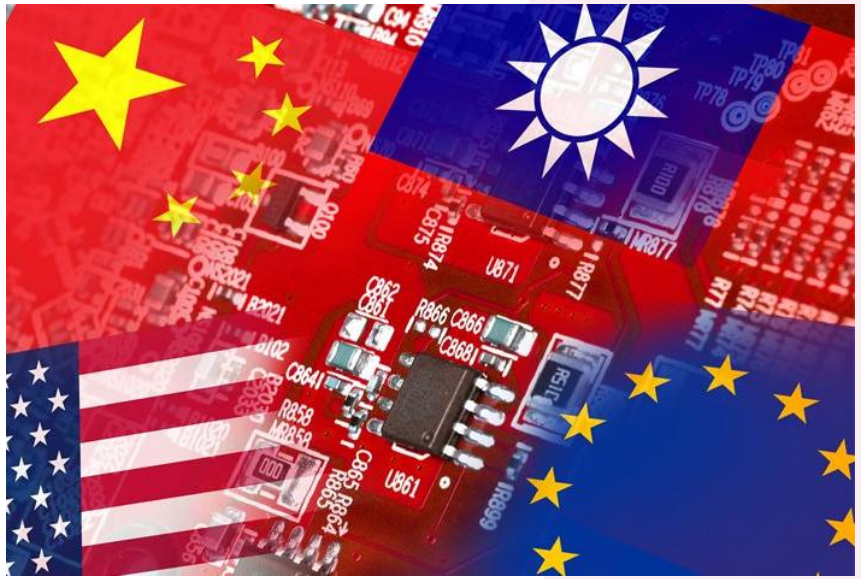
Source: Yole + Decision, 2025

European Commission

Geopolitical context in AI tech

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

- **Overdependence** (~100%) and **lock-in** to non-EU AI technologies => structural chokepoint
- **Exposure** to foreign jurisdictional, regulatory, and supply-chain constraints (export control)
- National **security** & **resilience**: defence and critical infrastructure need trusted components and assured access



Asymmetric interdependencies expose EU to **vulnerabilities** and constraints to its **technological sovereignty**

European Commission

EU Political context

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

European Commission

- **EC Competitiveness Compass**: *¨(…) support for… **cutting-edge AI chips**.”*
- **AI continent Action Plan***:* AI factories “*should stimulate the **design …**of **AI processors in Europe***.”

European Parliament

- **L**etter from 56 MEPs: *“We urge the European Commission to launch an ambitious Chips Act 2.0 with a **core focus on mobilizing greater investments in AI chips**…*

EU Member States

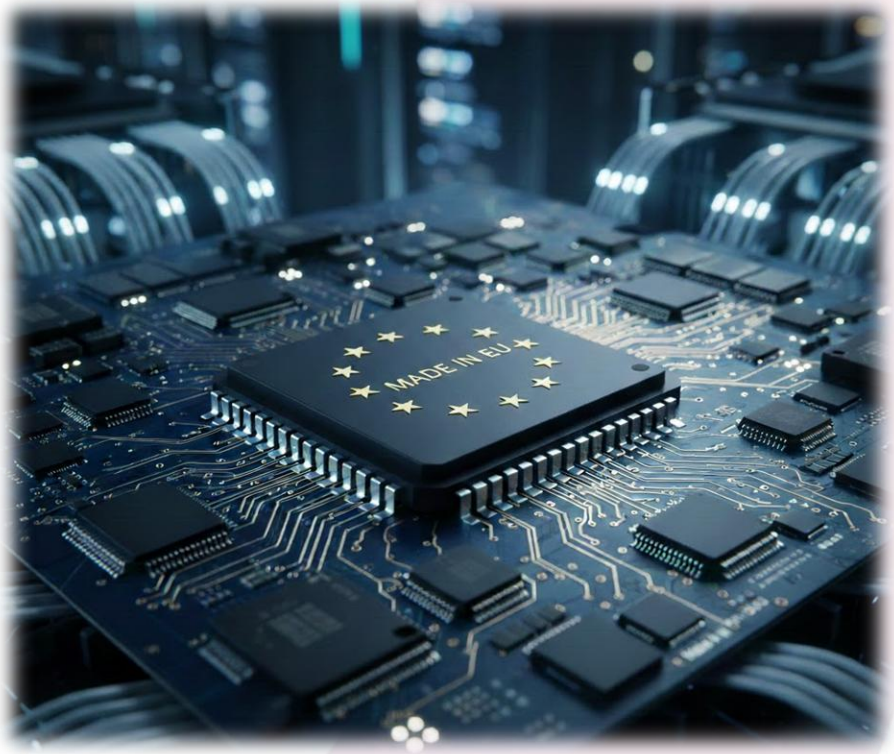
- **Semicon Coalition**, Declaration of **27 MSs**: “*Europe needs to:.. jointly work on the **development** of a **“EU semiconductor value chain for AI”***
- **Summit** on **European Digital Sovereignty** (DE-FR, 18/11/25) - *Push for EU-made AI infrastructure and for “Buy European” in **public procurement of EU sovereign stack***

European Commission

AI system approach for EU sovereignty

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

- AI infrastructure competitiveness is system-level (not chips alone)
  - EU efforts must converge on reference **full-stack platforms**
  - **Full-stack optimization** requires **collaboration** with real operators/end-users
- Critical **funding gap** for scaling EU **fabless** companies
  - Industrialisation of AI chips is capital-intensive, require full system development (boards, rack, pod + SW + validation)
- **Public funding** is a strong lever for sovereign solution development
  - Public procurement of AI systems creates credible demand to start the flywheel and crowd-in private investment



European Commission

Public procurement of AI systems

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

- **AI factories** are the ideal first **customers**
  - Provide credible demand and real constraints (power, reliability, security)
  - Can require co-optimised EU full-stack solutions (chips + systems + software)
  - Private cloud operators can support testing on real workloads

- **Pre-Commercial Procurement** is the right instrument
  - In R&D contracts can require development of AI compute systems in the EU
  - Compares candidates on common EU testbeds with transparent KPIs
  - Down-selects by performance, focusing funding on the best solutions

European Commission

Chips JU WP'26 - Chips for Europe Initiative

Call: AI Chips and Systems for EU Compute Infrastructure

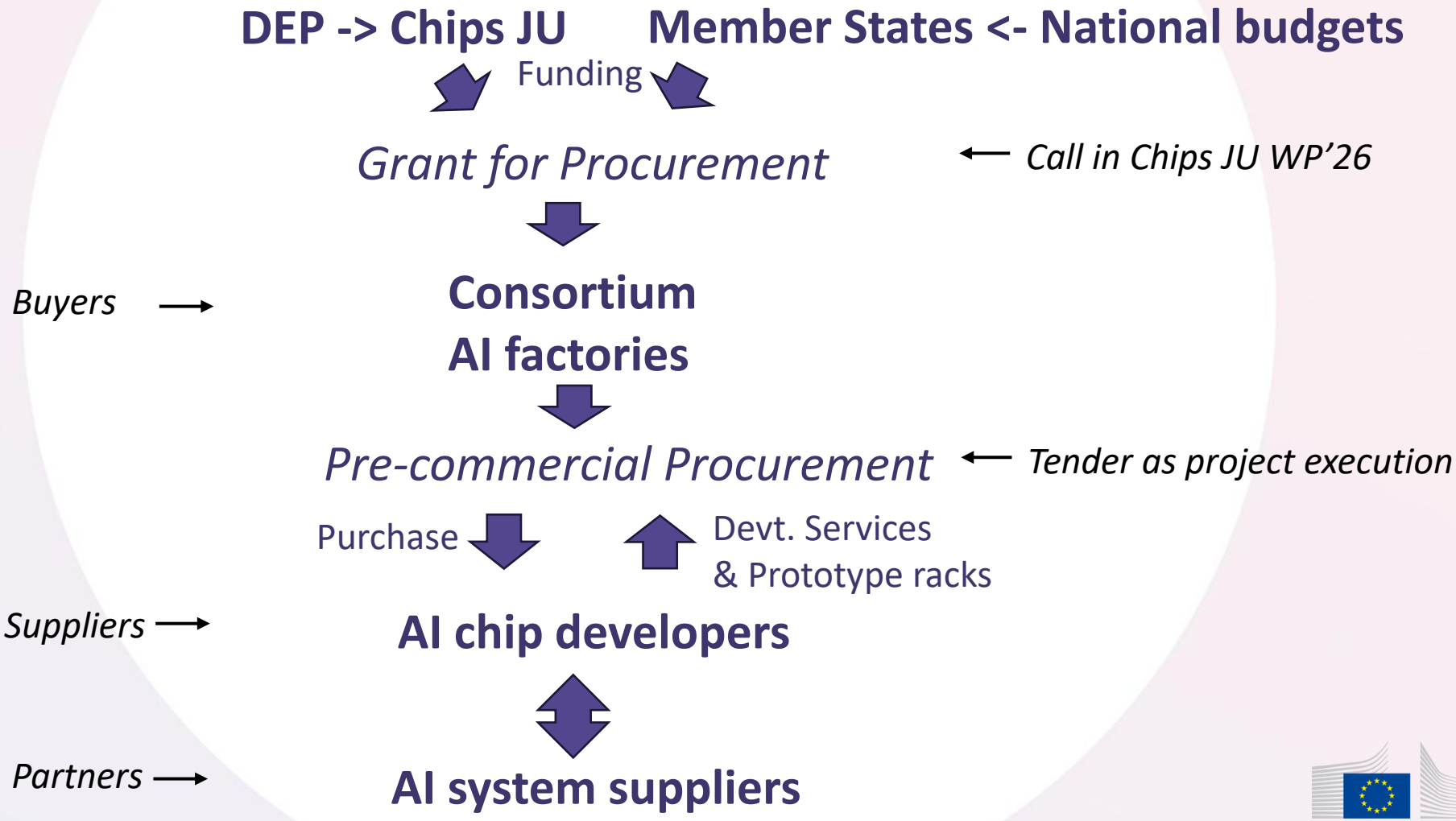
ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

- ***Proposed funding***: DEP 100M€ EU + commensurate funding PSs
- ***Type of action***: Grant for procurement
- ***Scope***: funding to be used by consortium mostly for Pre-Commercial Procurement of development service: AI racks based on EU chips
- *Approach*:
  - Consortium involving *contracting authorities (*e.g., AI factories), private entities may join as partners
  - PCP tender restricted to EU as 'place of performance'
  - AI chip companies to compete on performance, the selected ones will finalise system development with partners
  - Buyers may select prototypes for final pilot based on different priorities

European Commission

Pre-Commercial Procurement - implementation

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

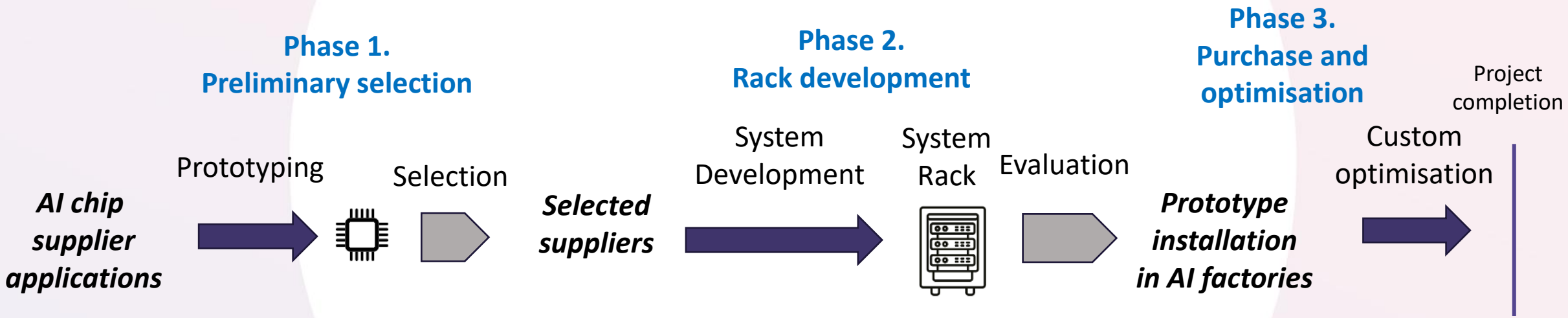


European Commission

EXAMPLE of potential PCP funnel implementation

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

- Example of a potential implementation of the PCP process
- Details (duration, funding, KPIs etc) to be decided by selected consortium



- Open Competition
- Limited to prepare demonstrator
- Comparative KPI test (~TRL6)

- Downselect to few suppliers
- System partners for rack prototypes
- Common testbed trial (~TRL7)

- Pilot purchases (<50% of PCP value)
- AIF call-offs, under framework
- Site-specific optimisation (~TRL8)

European Commission

Conclusions
Public procurement of AI systems

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

- Stimulate **demand** for EU AI stacks → flywheel
- De-risk EU **fabless** scale-up, crowd in **private** capital
- Less **overdependencies** / lock-in to non-EU platforms
- Open, KPI-based **competition** → funding focus, no market distortion
- Pilot + **system optimisation** on real AI-factory workloads
- Promotes deployment of **reference EU stack**

European Commission

ECS BROKERAGE EVENT 2026

Thank you!

Chips JU Work Programme 2026

“AI Chips and Systems for EU Compute Infrastructure”

Marco Ceccarelli
DG CNECT
European Commission

European Commission