

Neuchatel, Switzerland. March 23rd 2018

**PRESS RELEASE – Swiss participation in ECSEL Joint Undertaking comes into force.**

State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation, Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, launched Switzerland's membership of the ECSEL Joint Undertaking on March 20<sup>th</sup>, by signing the Administrative Agreement which outlines the roles and responsibilities of both authorities in supporting Swiss participants in ECSEL JU funded projects: the Swiss Federal Council adopted the agreement for the participation of Switzerland on 9th of March.

Today, with counter-signature by Bert De Colvenaer, Executive Director of the ECSEL JU, this agreement comes into force: Swiss industrial and academic partners can now participate in ECSEL JU funded projects, starting with the Calls of 2018 which is open for proposals until 26th of April 2018 for project outlines.

Full details of the requirements for participation and the available budgets will be published on the ECSEL JU website shortly ([ecsel.eu/calls/calls-2018](http://ecsel.eu/calls/calls-2018)). Partners in successful proposals can benefit from EU funding (part of the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Commission) as well as from additional national co-funding with a maximum of 2M CHF (about 1.7 M€).



From left to right: Roland Bühler, National Programme Manager SBFI; Bert De Colvenaer, Executive Director of ECSEL JU; Andreas Gut, Head of R&I Programmes SBFI/SERI.

The agreement was counter-signed at an information day event organised by the State Secretariat for Research, Education and Innovation (SERI), where potential partners from Switzerland could learn about the ECSEL JU research

programme and how to connect to pan-European consortia. Caroline Bedran, Director General of the AENEAS Association, one of the industry representatives covering SMEs, big companies, academia and research organisations, presented the active role of the association and how to best benefit from the network membership, the brokerage events and the consortia building sessions.

**About ECSEL JU**

The “Electronic Components and Systems for European Leadership” (ECSEL) is a Joint Undertaking established in June 2014 by the European Union Council Regulation No 561/2014. It is a public-private partnership that will engage, for 2014 to 2020, up to 1.17 billion euro funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, combining it with a commensurate amount of national/regional funding and participants’ own contributions to leverage about 5 billion euro Research and Innovation investments in nanoelectronics, embedded and cyber-physical systems, and system integration technologies. The R&D actors are represented by the associations AENEAS, ARTEMISIA and EPoSS.