



LCCC – Issue #5 (Summer 2026)

Welcome to the Summer 2026 issue of the LCCC Newsletter!

This summer, the **Latvian Chip Competence Centre (LCCC)** continued bringing **semiconductor technologies** closer to companies, researchers, students and the wider public, while moving from awareness raising towards practical support and cooperation opportunities.

In July, **LCCC organised two introductory webinars** in Latvian and English, presenting Latvia's semiconductor ecosystem, LCCC expertise and opportunities for cooperation. **Semiconductor technologies also reached a broader public audience at the LAMPA Conversation Festival**, where experts discussed the role of microchips in everyday life, Europe's technological competitiveness, Latvia's strengths in photonics and quantum technologies, and future opportunities for companies and young professionals.

An important next step is now open for companies: LCCC has launched a call for expert consultations for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including start-ups. Companies can submit technological questions, ideas or challenges and work with experts to better understand possible development pathways and opportunities for further cooperation within the Latvian and European semiconductor ecosystem.

This issue also provides an overview of upcoming European semiconductor, photonics and nanotechnology events, as well as current funding opportunities available through the Chips Joint Undertaking.

Follow the LCCC LinkedIn page for highlights and updates from our latest activities. More information about LCCC activities, services, events and opportunities is available on the LCCC website, where you can also use the [contact form](#) to get in touch with our team.

Recent events

LCCC Webinars: Exploring Opportunities in Latvia's Semiconductor Ecosystem

On 9 July 2026, the Latvian Chip Competence Centre organised two introductory webinars in Latvian and English, presenting LCCC activities, expertise and cooperation opportunities for companies, start-ups, researchers, students and other stakeholders interested in semiconductor technologies.

The webinars introduced Latvia's semiconductor ecosystem and highlighted LCCC expertise in microelectronics, photonics and quantum technologies. Participants were also introduced to practical cooperation pathways, including expert consultations, working groups, access to expertise and infrastructure, and opportunities for future research and innovation collaboration.

Recordings of the webinars and presentations are available on the [LCCC website](#).

Science, Talent and Microchips: Latvia's Formula for Growth

LCCC expertise was also highlighted in an interview with Dr. Artūrs Bundulis, Senior Expert for Study Development at the Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Latvia, prepared in cooperation with the Latvian Computer Technology Association (LDTA).

The interview focused on the importance of science, talent development and microelectronics for Latvia's future competitiveness, highlighting the need to strengthen semiconductor-related skills, attract new talent and build closer links between education, research and industry. [Watch the interview on the LDTA LinkedIn page](#).

LCCC at the LAMPA Conversation Festival

On 10 July 2026, the Latvian Chip Competence Centre brought semiconductor technologies to a wider public audience at the LAMPA Conversation Festival in Cēsis with the discussion *"From Smartphones to Security: Where Are Microchips Hidden and What Can Latvia Do?"*

The discussion explored the importance of microchips in everyday life, Europe's technological competitiveness and Latvia's opportunities within the semiconductor industry. Attention was given to the growing demand for advanced semiconductors driven by artificial intelligence, Latvia's strengths in areas such as photonics and quantum technologies, and future career opportunities for students and young professionals.



The event attracted active audience participation, including practical questions from industry representatives about the support available through LCCC and opportunities for Latvian companies to engage with the wider European semiconductor ecosystem.

[Read more about LCCC at LAMPA on the LCCC website.](#)

Upcoming Events

NanoInnovation 2026

 14–18 September 2026

 Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy / Online

 [Event website](#)

NanoInnovation 2026 will bring together researchers, industry professionals, companies and research organisations to explore recent developments in nanotechnology and its integration with other key enabling technologies. The conference combines scientific sessions, workshops, poster and demonstration events, training activities and an exhibition.

Topics particularly relevant to the semiconductor community include chips and micro-/nanoelectronics, micro- and nanofabrication, advanced materials, functional semiconductors, characterisation technologies and pathways from research to higher technology readiness levels. The event will take place in a hybrid format, with participation available both on-site in Rome and online.

International Summit on Photonics, Laser Science and Optical Engineering – PhotonicsVision 2026

 21–23 September 2026

 Barcelona, Spain / Online

 [Registration](#) and more details

PhotonicsVision 2026 will bring together researchers, scientists, engineers and industry professionals to discuss recent developments in photonics, laser science and optical engineering. The programme covers areas including integrated and silicon photonics, quantum photonics, optical communication, photonic sensors, nanophotonics, optical materials and computational photonics.

The summit will provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, networking and collaboration between academia, research institutions and industry, with participation available both in person and online.

ECOC 2026 – European Conference on Optical Communication

 20–24 September 2026

 FYCMA, Málaga, Spain

 [Event website and registration](#)

ECOC 2026 is one of the world's leading events dedicated to optical communications and networks, bringing together researchers, industry professionals and technology companies to explore the latest developments and future trends in the field. The conference is accompanied by Europe's largest exhibition dedicated to optical communications.

The programme covers optical communication technologies and networks alongside emerging areas such as integrated and programmable photonics, AI, IoT and quantum technologies. For the LCCC community, the event provides opportunities to follow developments in photonic integrated circuits and optical technologies, exchange knowledge and establish connections with key European and international stakeholders.

Chip Design Sprint: Chipathon

 16–18 October 2026

 Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia

 [Registration and event information](#)

Chipathon is an intensive three-day chip design, electronics and embedded systems sprint for high school and university students. Participants will gain hands-on experience in digital

logic, chip design, Verilog programming, embedded systems, testing and AI tools while developing their own chip designs in small teams.

The programme combines practical training and team-based design activities with a final demonstration and Career Market, providing opportunities to meet technology companies and explore internships and careers in the semiconductor and electronics sectors. No previous chip design or programming experience is required.

Techritory 2026

 21–22 October 2026

 ATTA Centre, Riga, Latvia

 [Event website and registration](#)

Techritory 2026 will bring together more than 600 technology leaders, policymakers, researchers and industry representatives in Riga to discuss Europe's digital future under this year's theme, "Security and Prosperity Through Digitalization and Connectivity."

The programme will address digital sovereignty, AI adoption, 5G and 6G, defence and security technologies, satellite connectivity, digital identity and European data centres. For the LCCC community, Techritory provides a relevant platform for networking, international cooperation and discussions on technologies and policies shaping Europe's digital and high-tech ecosystem.

PIC Summit Europe 2026

 3–4 November 2026

 Evluon, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

 [Event website and registration](#)

PIC Summit Europe 2026 will bring together the international integrated photonics ecosystem to explore how photonic integrated circuits (PICs) are moving from technological development towards large-scale manufacturing and real-world deployment. The event expects more than 800 participants, 65 expert speakers and 40 sessions.

The programme will focus on the industrialisation and scaling of PIC technologies, including advanced packaging, testing, production yield, qualification and supply-chain readiness. Bringing together designers, foundries, integrators, OEMs, investors and technology experts, the summit will provide opportunities to follow the latest industry developments, explore commercial applications and establish new connections across the global photonics ecosystem.

SEMICON Europa 2026



10–13 November 2026



Trade Fair Center Messe München, Munich, Germany



[Event website and registration](#)

SEMICON Europa 2026 will bring together industry leaders from across the semiconductor design and manufacturing supply chain. Organised by SEMI Europe and co-located with electronica, the event is one of Europe's major platforms for the microelectronics and electronics manufacturing industries.

The programme will address key challenges and developments in microelectronics through dedicated forums, conferences and networking activities, including the Executive Forum, Advanced Packaging Conference and Fab Management Forum. For the LCCC community, the event provides opportunities to follow technological and industrial developments, establish international contacts and explore collaboration across the European semiconductor ecosystem.

Call for proposal

LCCC Opens Applications for Expert Consultations

The Latvian Chip Competence Centre (LCCC) invites micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including start-ups, to submit technological questions, ideas or challenges for expert consultations in the field of chips and related advanced technologies.

The consultations are designed to help companies discuss their technological needs with LCCC experts, understand how these needs relate to LCCC expertise, and identify potential pathways for further development and collaboration within the Latvian and European semiconductor ecosystem.

Consultations may cover micro- and nanoelectronics, photonics, sensors, quantum technologies, materials science, modelling, simulation, measurement and characterisation approaches. Each approved application may receive 8–24 expert hours, depending on the topic and available expert capacity.

Participation is free of charge for approved applicants. Expert consultations are planned for September 2026, and applications remain open until further notice or until the available expert capacity is reached.



[Learn more about the consultation conditions and apply](#)

Chips Joint Undertaking – Open and Upcoming Calls

The Chips Joint Undertaking provides funding opportunities supporting the development of Europe's semiconductor ecosystem through the Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programmes.

Funding opportunities cover two main areas: the Chips for Europe Initiative, supporting activities such as pilot lines, the European Design Platform, competence centres and quantum technologies; and Electronic Components and Systems Research and Innovation, supporting collaborative research and innovation in areas including AI hardware, edge computing, cybersecurity, 6G, energy efficiency, advanced packaging and photonics.

 [Explore open and upcoming Chips JU calls](#)

Beyond Chips Podcast by Chips Joint Undertaking

The Chips Joint Undertaking continues its official podcast – *Beyond Chips* – offering monthly insights into Europe's dynamic semiconductor ecosystem.

New episodes are released every first Wednesday of the month, featuring leading voices from industry, research, and policy. The podcast explores the strategic, technological, and economic dimensions of Europe's chips landscape.

 Episodes 1–13 are already [available](#), covering challenges, opportunities, and key innovations that are shaping the future of semiconductors in Europe.



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