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## **R&D in Future Core Industries including Semiconductor and Bio benefit 9 Billion Won**

- Announcement of 47 Selected Technology Innovation Development  
Project Tasks -

- 47 promising SMEs with the potential to lead the future core industries including semiconductor and bio were selected
  - Selected SMEs will be provided between 600 million won to 2 billion won over the course of two to four years per task for R&D
- It is expected that the companies will lead the semiconductor and bio technologies by securing semiconductor design technology, localizing equipment, and developing diagnostic equipment for major diseases

The Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Minister LEE Young, hereafter referred to as MSS) announced on Tuesday, July 5, that it has designated 47 promising SMEs in the future core industries from the semiconductor and bio sectors as part of its “SME Technology Innovation Development Project.”

This project is an R&D project that provides between 600 million won to 2 billion won over the course of two to four years for SMEs and startups to secure growth engines with technology competitiveness.

The 47 designated companies fall under “Hidden Champions 100,” “Market Expansion,” and “Materials, Parts, and Equipment Strategies” tasks within the SME Technology Innovation Development Project.

**The major technology fields of the selected tasks are as follows.**

First, in the **semiconductor and display sector**, many selected tasks aimed to localize semiconductor design technology and equipment to create a large gap. Many tasks fell under the fabless\* and packaging and testing sectors, which are the core aspects of system semiconductors.

\* Fabless: Companies that do not manufacture semiconductors, but only take part in the design and development

From the **fabless sector**, seven tasks (14.9%) were selected including the 5G communication semiconductor, high-speed video recognising high-functioning System on Chip (SoC), and the development of highly reliable measurement sensors.

From the **packaging and testing sector**, nine tasks (19.1%) related to manufacturing and testing equipment were selected including the plasma processing equipment for packaging and probe head technology for testing.

Also, many future potential tasks were selected from the **bio sector**.

Six tasks (12.8%) related to the development of new drugs including the development of cell treatment, as well as candidate material for treating cancer and genetic nerve disorders were selected.

Also, 11 tasks (23.4%) from the healthcare sector were selected, including diagnostic equipment for major diseases including stroke and cancer cells, and diagnostic services for oral diseases based on deep learning.

MSS Director General for Technology Innovation Policy JANG Dae-gyo stated, “With the intensifying hegemonic technology competition between

the US and China, the Korean government will continue to support Korean SMEs and startups to secure a competitive edge over global technology.”

He added, “The MSS will especially focus on fostering promising SMEs that will lead the future core industries including semiconductor and bio industries to enhance the potential of SMEs and startups.”