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MSS-Samsung Electronics to work together to foster promising fabless companies

MSS holds an awards ceremony for the "Fabless Challenge" to recognize and support promising fabless companies.

Samsung Electronics will prioritize the MPW fabrication process for selected companies, and MSS will provide relevant costs

Sejong, September 4 - The Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Minister LEE Young, hereinafter referred to as MSS) partnered with Samsung Electronics to organize the "Fabless Challenge" event on August 29 at the DMC Tower of the Korea Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises. This event aims to identify and provide support to promising fabless companies.

Every year since 2022, the "Fabless Challenge" has been held to strengthen the system semiconductor ecosystem and foster collaborative growth between fabless and foundries. After an extensive evaluation process, which included document and presentation evaluations by experts, five promising fabless startups¹ have finally been selected this year.

Samsung Electronics will grant priority access to the foundry's MPW² fabrication process and related technology for selected startups, with MSS supporting development costs of up to KRW 100 million per company.

¹ Alpha Solutions, Inc., BOS Semiconductors, Damoa Tech, Gwanak Analog, ONE SEMICON (in alphabetical order)

² MPW (Multi-Project Wafer): A method of developing products by placing multiple chip designs on a single wafer for prototypes or research purposes.

The event commenced with congratulatory remarks from OH Kee-woong, Vice Minister of SMEs and Startups, and JEONG Gi-bong, Vice President of Samsung Electronics. A progress report on the evaluation by an evaluation committee member, an award ceremony for selected startups, and a presentation on future vision were followed.

Vice Minister OH Kee-woong of SMEs and Startups stated, "In order for Korea's semiconductor industry to thrive again, fostering excellent fabless companies for system semiconductors is crucial." He added, "MSS will continue to make efforts to foster promising fabless companies and promote balanced growth between fabless and foundries through mutual cooperation."