



Global Standards for the Microelectronics Industry



JEDEC standards are important because they:

Enable and grow markets

Standards are the basic building blocks of the digital economy, allowing major markets in a broad variety of electronic products to flourish, and are the bedrock on which healthy, high-volume markets are built. Semiconductor memory standards, for example – from dynamic RAM chips and memory modules to DDR synchronous DRAM and flash components – have enabled huge markets in PCs, servers, digital cameras, MP3 players, mobile phones, automotive and HDTV, to name just a few.

Lead to more efficient R&D

Because of standards, companies can invest more strategically in R&D rather than inventing everything from scratch. Once common formats or form factors are set, companies can offer products based on standards, and focus R&D efforts on developing innovations to differentiate their products.

Enable innovation

Standards serve to lower component prices while maintaining quality and reliability. This leads suppliers to compete more vigorously through product enhancements and differentiation, giving buyers more variety and a broader selection. The end result is a much larger market than proprietary products could foster, which means more potential sales and revenue.

Open opportunities in world markets

International standards play a key role in the global economy, serving as a lingua franca in world markets. They define product types and establish minimum levels of quality and reliability. Because of this, they encourage international business and simplify contract negotiations and language between global buyers and sellers. Because everyone is using the same terms, definitions, formats and form factors, buyers are more confident and sellers have a bigger market.

For more information: visit www.jedec.org or call 703-907-7560.

Your company's participation in the development of open JEDEC standards is essential because it provides:

Economic benefits: saving money and time

With your company's involvement comes close insight into the direction the industry is moving with regard to standards development. You'll save money and time by understanding and influencing the industry's roadmap. Having the knowledge to avoid investing in the wrong direction could represent significant savings for your company, many times over the cost of membership.

Insight into regulatory directions

Your company's involvement gives you an early view of potential regulation, not only in the U.S. but worldwide (such as RoHS in Europe). When governments turn to JEDEC for guidance in formulating regulations, you'll have a say and can ensure that regulations use reasonable standards based on industry consensus, rather than arbitrarily set government mandates.

Technological insight, competitive advantage and influence

By participating in JEDEC standards development, you'll have a platform from which to exert influence on the standards, either to favor your technology or to prevent it from being disadvantaged. This early insight also gives you a leg up on competitors that don't participate in developing standards, enables you to bring new products to market faster and protects you from being blindsided by quickly emerging technology or regulations.

Valuable business relationships

JEDEC membership and meetings often lead to useful industry contacts, including a wide range of potential customers and suppliers. In standards activities, companies that otherwise independently develop product solutions have the opportunity to collaborate on key elements affecting those products. Companies may find common goals that lead to profitable strategic alliances and partnerships. Regular technical interactions with such a wide variety of other companies can help you make better decisions about R&D investment, product development and market strategy.

JEDEC membership is indispensable because it offers:

An open standards organization with global membership:

JEDEC invites participation from device and product developers on a worldwide basis, which affords member companies the opportunity to participate with many high-quality companies in the standards development process. Involvement of key technical individuals from most device, assembly, system and testing companies enables JEDEC to publish technical standards with high value.

Breadth and speed: One of the core values that JEDEC brings to this industry is the ability to develop standards spanning the breadth of the electronics industry: from components to packaging, test methods and quality and reliability. JEDEC standards address the needs of all segments in the industry, from device manufacturers to end consumers. When the need for a standard is urgent, JEDEC's process enables fast development and passage. For example, J-STD-075, which addresses problems that arose from the adoption of lead-free solder, was written, proposed and passed in seven months.

Reasonable rates: JEDEC's low cost of membership allows companies of all sizes and revenue levels to participate, resulting in consensus-based standards with broad industry acceptance.

An illustrious history: JEDEC was founded in 1958, the year the integrated circuit was invented, and it has developed right alongside the semiconductor industry. Today, JEDEC remains the dominant technical voice of the semiconductor industry, with more than 3,000 volunteers from some 300 companies developing standards for a broad range of technologies.

Role in international standards: JEDEC is an international organization, accredited by ANSI, and its standards are adopted worldwide. Among the most widely recognized international JEDEC standards are volatile (DDR, GDDR) and non-volatile (Flash, NAND) memories, lead-free manufacturing and various quality and reliability standards.

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