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From the Albany Business Review:

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## New Saratoga design center could draw more GlobalFoundries customers to region

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Jun 29, 2018, 2:49pm EDT

Saratoga Economic Development Corp. is creating a new accelerator in Saratoga Springs focused on design innovation in computer chips and electronic systems.

Dennis Brobston, president of SEDC, said the development group and its partners are seeking money from the state's Regional Economic Development Council toward the project. It is expected to cost \$10 million.

The goal of the Electronic Design and Innovation Initiative is to establish the region as a leader in the design of semiconductor chips and electronic systems. It will capitalize on the region's burgeoning semiconductor industry.

What started with research in computer chip manufacturing at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering in Albany has grown to a young, but thriving industry in this region. That industry is sustained by GlobalFoundries, a \$15 billion computer chip factory outside of Saratoga Springs that works with third-party companies, such as AMD, to produce their designs.

"AMD spun off GlobalFoundries. They are a design house. When we have this cluster of people educating, we're hopeful that we can get them to locate a design center here because we have the staff and the workforce," Brobston said. "There's three of these sites set up each year all over the world. We're hopeful as we get going, we can get one of them."

One of the challenges to design innovation is the cost of electronic design automation tools, which can cost as much as \$3 million for a two-year license. The plan is for the new design center to buy the licenses and then rent out time on the tools to small businesses, startups and large companies seeking new opportunities for product development.

Brobston said the partners have visited similar programs around the world in the U.K. and Hong Kong. This will be the first accelerator of its kind in the United States.

Partners include the U.S. Small Business Administration, Clarkson University, National Grid, Siemens, Center for Economic Growth, New York State Electric & Gas, SUNY Adirondack and a local startup, ReWire Energy.



COURTESY OF KCG DEVELOPMENT

The design accelerator is expected to be in the new Link@SoBro building that's being built on the site of the former Saratoga Diner at 153 South Broadway.

Clarkson University and SUNY Adirondack will be responsible for developing this new workforce.

SEDC is recruiting partners through the second half of 2018, and is expecting operations to start in April 2019. More partners will likely be announced in January.

The design accelerator is expected to be in the new Link@SoBro building on the site of the former Saratoga Diner at 153 South Broadway. The development project, from KCG Development, includes 110 apartments and commercial space. On the second floor will be a 10,000-square-foot affordable business incubator, called Spark Saratoga, overseen by SEDC.

Brobston said the accelerator will work out of an office in Spark, and will hire between five and 10 people. He said there is potential the program can create 100 jobs by bringing partner companies to the area.

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