

# Pistorio slams digital divide

The head of Europe's largest chip maker wants the electronics industry to dig into its pockets and fight the digital divide.

Pasquale Pistorio, president and CEO of STMicroelectronics, has used his role as a member of the United Nations ICT Task Force to propose that companies with more than 250 staff should give 0.1% of their revenue and 0.1% of their staff to tackling the problem.

"The difference between those who have and those who have not got high-quality access to information is becoming even more important for achieving personal success. We must avoid letting people fall through the net," he said.

"I have made a proposal which aims at getting corporations involved in the fight against the digital divide."

Pistorio is arguing that the funding — which would be voluntary — should come in addition to donations of hardware, software and communications equipment.

"The intention is to create a widespread movement," he said.

In March, the International Telecommunications Union also identified a need for funding to beat the digital divide. Its report wanted backing for projects that use IT to improve livelihoods, incubate technology start-ups and build infrastructure in developing nations.