2009 “Best of West” Award Finalists Announced

Prestigious Panel Recognizes Important Industry Innovations at SEMICON West

SAN JOSE, Calif. – June 17, 2009– SEMI today announced the finalists for the 2009 “Best of West” awards, recognizing important product and technology developments in the microelectronics supply chain. Conducted in conjunction with SEMICON West, the largest and most influential microelectronics exposition in North America, the Best of West finalists have been selected based on their financial impact on the industry, engineering or scientific achievement, and/or societal impact.

The 2009 Best of West Finalists are:

- **AquiVia**, from Alchimer. AquiVia is a new high-performance deposition technology that offers a substantially lower cost of ownership than alternative dry processes. Encompassing the three distinct process steps required before a through silicon via (TSV) can be filled with metal, it enables wet-process deposition of insulator, barrier and copper seed layers within high-aspect ratio TSVs using electrografting technology. This innovative approach ensures strong adhesion between all layers, and provides high yield and device reliability.
- **Stress-induced LIft-off Method, or SLIM-Cut,** The SLIM-Cut method, developed by IMEC, addresses one of the biggest challenges of crystalline-Si for photovoltaics: kerf-free wafering of substrates as thin as 50 microns. Fully based on mechanical stress, it is compatible with low-cost fabrication methods. Made of single crystalline material, the wafers have the potential to provide high-efficiency solar cells.
- **K-Patents Semicon Refractometer PR-33-S,** from K-Patents, is a Digital Refractive Index (RI) measurement technology that offers many possibilities to increase wafer throughput and to cut down the chemical costs in the whole process from chemical supplies down to fab in-line and tool in-situ chemical concentration control.
- **CCS-1000 Critical Cleaning System** by Nano Green Technology Inc., combines deionized (DI) water and ammonia gas (NH3) to form molecules that move in a pattern with well-defined relative phases—known as "coherent" water—developed and trademarked by NGT as ionized molecularly activated coherent solution—or iMACS™—a revolutionary green, renewable, cleaning process solution—for the semiconductor, Flat Panel Display (FPD), Liquid Crystal Display (LCD), and data storage disk drive (DSDD) industries.

  iMACS achieves an unmatched cleaning performance that removes nano particles—ionic, organic, or metallic—and provides a green—and safe—environment—without any waste. In the traditional SC-1 cleaning method, expensive chemicals etched and damaged devices and topography; with iMACS, the use of expensive chemicals is eliminated and operation costs are reduced—drastically.
- **Gore® Filters for Semiconductor Applications,** from W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc., GORE® Filters for Semiconductor Applications are 20-nm- to 100-nm-rated cartridge filters for chemicals, dilute chemicals and ultrapure water in wet process tools. These filters incorporate a new high flow ePTFE (expanded polytetrafluoroethylene) filtration media that allows a drop-in retention upgrade from 100 nm to 30 nm, enabling cleaner recirculation baths and reduced processing times.

The selection of finalists was made by a prestigious panel of judges representing a broad spectrum of the microelectronics industry (a list of judges can be found at: www.semiconwest.org/bestofwest). Best of West Award winners will be announced during SEMICON West on July 15, 2009.

SEMI is the global industry association serving the manufacturing supply chains for the microelectronic, display and photovoltaic industries. SEMI member companies are the engine of the future, enabling smarter, faster and more economical products that improve our lives. Since 1970, SEMI has been committed to helping members grow more profitably, create new markets and meet common industry challenges. SEMI maintains offices in Austin, Bangalore, Beijing, Brussels, Hsinchu, Moscow, San Jose, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.semi.org.

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