

Press Release



August 14, 2007 – Weilburg, Germany

Acceptance process of the Vistec LMS IPRO4 beta site system completed successfully

The LMS IPRO4, the newest generation fully automated mask metrology system from Vistec Semiconductor Systems recently passed the Factory Acceptance Test with flying colors at Advanced Mask Technology Center (AMTC, Dresden, Germany), the leading global mask company.

"The Vistec LMS IPRO4 is already the 6th generation of our successful photomask tool for registration metrology (pattern placement). Our system performed significantly better than the expected specifications we had agreed on," stated Vistec Senior Product Manager Dr. Klaus-Dieter Roeth.

"In particular, the system's excellent long-term repeatability was most convincing, because AMTC considers this a key parameter in the further development of mask technology for the 32 nm chip generation and the system's upcoming application in "double patterning" methods," added Dr. Gunter Antesberger, AMTC Senior Process Engineer.

Like the LMS IPRO3, the previous generation mask metrology pattern placement tool, the new Vistec LMS IPRO4 was developed within the framework of the ABBILD project (Imaging Methods for Nanoelectronic Components) funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). Developing the new generation IPRO instrument to be ready for market, took the Vistec team only two years.

"Our team's extraordinary know-how and their experience made this outstanding technological performance possible," emphasized Vistec General Manager Gerhard Ruppik. "As such, we can provide customers like AMTC the advanced tools to enable the next level of technology. Close cooperation with our customers and partners in research facilities and universities provide constantly new, intelligent solutions for significant improvements."

Evidently, this cooperation is appreciated by both sides. AMTC recently honored Vistec with their "Supplier of the Year" award for mask metrology systems.

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The LMS IPRO4 tool will be installed in Dresden in August 2007. Two more deliveries – to market leaders in Japan and the USA – are planned for this year. “The LMS IPRO4 maintains an ongoing success story, with over 90 instruments already installed around the world,” Ruppik explained.

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Media information:

Vistec Semiconductor Systems GmbH:

Vistec Semiconductor Systems GmbH is providing key technology used by all leading semiconductor manufacturers and many research institutes around the world. Their innovative product portfolio includes inspection systems, defect detection and classification systems and metrology systems for mask and wafer manufacturing. Their systems are used for microchip and photo mask production as well as for scientific and commercial research. In addition to the production facility in Germany, the company also maintains support centers in the USA, Japan, China, Singapore, Taiwan and Korea.

Vistec Semiconductor Systems GmbH, Weilburg is part of the Vistec Semiconductor Systems Group which consists of three business units:

- Vistec Semiconductor Systems GmbH located in Weilburg, Germany
- Vistec Electron Beam GmbH located in Jena, Germany
- Vistec Lithography Inc. located in Albany, N.Y., USA

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