For Immediate Release

Flash Memory Leading Photoresists to $1.14B Recovery

Techcet Forecasts $1.5B in Photoresists for 2012

Del Mar, CA, June 21: Photoresist manufacturers are hoping this year to gain back 95% of their 2008 revenue levels, or about $1.14B, following a 25% drop in resist usage in 2009, according to a new report from Techcet Group, "**Photoresists and Photoresist Ancillaries, Semiconductor Critical Materials Report 2010**." Revenues are expected to continue to grow to more than $1.5B over the next three years.

Flash memory is clearly in the lithography driver's seat, fueling demand for 193nm immersion with double patterning, followed by DRAM and microprocessors. About 33% of all semiconductor resist sold in the world is now for 193nm (ArF) dry and immersion patterning, although 248nm and i-line remain a mainstay for most layers produced, with a combined 43% in revenue share and a much higher wafer pass share.

There continues to be an unsustainably high number of suppliers in the resist market, with at least nine manufacturers offering standard and advanced photoresist products. JSR and TOK share 49% of the global market, while 5 others hold shares of 5% to 19%. With a surge in R&D expenses as EUV becomes the primary focus at the leading edge, it seems likely that some consolidation is due.

While there do not appear to be any supply chain shortages looming, there are far fewer suppliers of resins, PACs and PAGs than there are resist and ancillaries suppliers. Only one US supplier, DuPont Electronic Polymers (TriQuest), holds a significant market share for 248nm and 193nm resist polymer resins. Worldwide, there are only three other basic resin suppliers, all in Japan. Many solvents and other materials used in the photolithographic process have been moved offshore and are no longer made in the U.S. This includes solvents such as IPA and other critical chemistries used for carriers and processes in the semiconductor manufacturing world.

The photoresist ancillary markets, which include strippers/removers, developers, ARCs and other ancillaries (EBR, HMDS, specialty solvents) are expected to reach a combined $1.05B this year, despite a revenue decrease of more than 25% last year for developers alone.

In addition to market analysis, critical supply chain issues and technical trends, the report includes profiles and updates for the eight major suppliers to the global semiconductor photoresist industry.

Techcet Group, LLC specializes in market analysis and technical trend analysis for the semiconductor, silicon, PV, TFT and related electronics industries. The company has been responsible for producing the International Sematech Critical Material Reports since 2001. Other reports released this quarter include:

- CMP Consumables
- Wet Chemicals
- High κ and ALD Precursors
- Gases
- Sputter Targets
- Quartz
- PV Materials

For additional information about "**Photoresists and Photoresist Ancillaries, Semiconductor Critical Materials Report 2010**" and other Techcet reports, contact Lita Shon-Roy, +1-858-259-9077, lshonroy@techcet.com, or visit our website at www.techcet.com.

SOURCE: Techcet Group, LLC