

Press release

PVA TePla delivers new Generation of 300 mm Silicon Crystal Growing Systems to WACKER SILTRONIC

Asslar/Hanau, 16.12.2003: PVA TePla's Crystal Growing Systems Division has set an important milestone in 300 mm technology after successful implementation of a pilot production plant for 300 mm silicon crystals at WACKER SILTRONIC.

The Project of Crystal Growing Systems (CGS), Hanau, being promoted by the German Ministry for Research and Technology is so successfully completed. The project partners thereby succeeded to outperform the inherently ambitious development targets. In particular batch weights – most important for productivity - could be evident increased.

“It is the right time for this new system generation and our positioning in the growing 300 mm market as the semiconductor industry's recovery is emerging” says Martin Gier, responsible as a Board Member for the Group's Crystal Growing and Plasma Systems Division.

The new 300-mm wafers permit a quantum leap in chip productivity and efficiency. With surface areas 2.25 times those of 200-mm wafers, they allow chip manufacturers to greatly increase outputs. The new 300 mm wafer wafers therefore contribute to reduced production costs for the next generation of microprocessors and for gigabit-capacity memory chips.

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About WACKER SILTRONIC

Ranking among the world's top producers of hyperpure silicon for the semiconductor industry, WACKER SILTRONIC supplies the leading manufacturers of electronic devices used in telecommunications, the computer industry, consumer electronics, and the automotive, aviation and aerospace sectors. WACKER SILTRONIC's product portfolio includes hyperpure polycrystalline silicon, silicon monocrystals (CZ and FZ) and silicon wafers up to 300 mm in diameter.

About PVA TePla

PVA TePla AG, formed by a merger between TePla AG and PVA Vakuum-Anlagenbau GmbH, is an established supplier of systems and facilities for eco-friendly production and treatment of sophisticated industrial materials, with decades of experience in these fields. As a vacuum specialist for high-temperature and plasma treatment, PVA TePla is a leading player on the world market for hard-metal sintering plant, crystal growing facilities and plant for surface activation using plasma. With its systems and services, PVA TePla supports key processes in industrial companies – above all in the semiconductor, hard metal, electrical/ electronic and food industries – as well as for tomorrow's photovoltaic and fuel cell technologies.

The company also supplies innovative components and solutions for cleaning freshwater, wastewater and surfaces using UVC radiation.

The shares of this high-tech company have been traded on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange since 21 June 1999; since 1 January 2003, the shares have been listed in the Prime Standard segment (ISIN DE0007461006, Reuters TPEG).

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