

Press release

No. 01/04
March 4, 2004

First VGF Production System at compound technology leader FCM in the growth market for Indium Phosphide Wafers

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Aslar, March 4, 2004: PVA TePla's Crystal Growing Systems Division has successfully implemented the first commercially available Production VGF System at Freiburger Compound Materials GmbH (FCM), current technology leader in the manufacture of Gallium Arsenide Wafers.

The modular VGF System "Kronos" produces compound semiconductor crystals such as Indium Phosphide (InP) and Gallium Arsenide (GaAs) as well as Germanium crystals, using the VGF process (Vertical Gradient Freeze), by which crystals solidify from bottom to top by precisely controlling temperature gradients in a pressure chamber. The development of the VGF System was funded by the German Ministry of Economics.

The VGF Production System guarantees first-class quality in the production of compound semiconductor chips and replaces more and more the currently used LEC-process.

For broadband high frequency applications InP is best suited. InP transistors enable fibre optic data transmission up to 40 gigabyte per second and are therefore predestined for applications such as internet backbones, video on demand, and mobile wireless base stations.

Experts and market insiders are expecting a considerable boom in this present niche market within the next 5 years.

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 for surface activation using plasma. With its systems and services, PVA TePla supports key processes in industrial companies – above all in the metal, ceramics, plastics, semiconductor, hard metal and electrical/electronic industries – as well as institutes for research and development engaging with material 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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