

SOLARCON and SEMICON Singapore Show Cases the Latest Development in Semiconductor and PV Industries

May 20, 2009 — Singapore — With 123 companies' exhibit, SEMI kicked off its first SOLARCON Singapore by co-located with SEMICON Singapore 2009 today at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. The deputy managing director of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), the CEO of SSMC and the president of Applied Solar all attended the opening ceremony and were positive about the industries and green opportunities. In conjunction with SEMICON Singapore, SOLARCON Singapore will showcase products and technologies, and will present the market trend at the growing solar/photovoltaic (PV) market in Southeast Asia in the 3-day event.

Impacted by global economic recession, industry analysts are looking at about 20% decline for the device market this year. According to SEMI, the global semiconductor sales will be about US\$200 billion for 2009. However, the industry seems to bounce back in Q2 as the 3-month average shipments did improve in March for semiconductor shipments, increased 4.5% from February. Meanwhile, the monthly sales in April of top foundries and packaging subcons were up 41% compared with March.

With more than 60% of the world's spending on equipping frontend semiconductor fabs in Asia, there is an increasing shift of the centre of gravity of major equipment manufacturers to be closer to their Asian customers. According to EDB, In 2008(p), the semiconductor industry produced an output of S\$37.3b, accounting for 11% of the global semiconductor output.

"During the past few years, semiconductor industries have made the strategic investments in the main stream technology and the process needed to manufacture the same. The time has come now for the industries in Singapore and this region to see how they can produce more out of the installed base and even beyond the generic process into special / niche technologies. When the market turns around, such companies can be one step ahead of the rest of the competitors from the world positioning Southeast Asia as a strong semiconductor HUB," said Jagadish CV, Chief Executive Officer of Systems on Silicon Manufacturing Company Pte Ltd.

Despite economic uncertainties, Southeast Asia is positioning itself for the next growth cycle. Leading this effort is Singapore with its plans for manufacturing plants to serve both the semiconductor and the photovoltaic (PV) industries.

"Building on Singapore's strengths and experience in the semiconductor industry, we have identified clean energy as an area of growth. In the area of solar technology, Singapore is able to leverage on many of the commonalities in processing technology with semiconductor to provide high value-add and create meaningful jobs," said Manohar Khiatani, Deputy Managing Director during the opening ceremony.

"The demand for PV solar continues to grow and provide new market opportunities for cost-effective, large scale clean electric power, especially in Southeast Asia. Applied Materials has a significant presence in the region, including a research and development facility in Xi'an, China, that has enabled us to be a catalyst for delivering advanced technology and manufacturing solutions to drive down the price of solar," stated Charles Gay, President of Applied Solar, Applied

Materials.

"Singapore not only stands at the forefront of the world's test, assembly, and packaging market, but also the first South East Asian hub for solar PV testing and certification," said Paul Davis, Executive Vice President of SEMI. " SEMICON and SOLARCON Singapore connects the suppliers, speakers, technologies, market opportunities that can help companies manage the current economic downturn and prepare for the upswing."

Southeast Asia continues to play a vital part in the assembly and testing of semiconductor devices. According to SEMI World Fab Forecast report, US\$ 500 million is expected to be spent on fabs equipping in 2009 mainly by Chartered, Micron and UMC. It is projected that these fabs may spend over US\$ 1 billion in 2010. As the economy starts to turn around, the territory will once again thrive with backend activity for the semiconductor industry in the coming year.

Programs and Events Highlight

In conjunction with the SEMICON and SOLARCON exhibitions, SEMI holds 7 programs on May 20-22 aiming the latest trend and technology in semiconductor wafer processing, packaging and testing, and the application and cost reduction in PV. Today in the Market Trend Briefing session, UTAC, EDB, Gartner and SEMI will provide an outlook of semiconductor and the equipment and materials market.

The Solar Energy/ Photovoltaic Symposium on May 21 and 22 will offer an in-depth look into the market opportunities in Asia, the applications development, and the technologies and standards that can drive down the cost. The featured speakers include Charles Gay, the president of Applied Materials Solar, Mr. Andreas Balzer, the Managing Director of REC Systems Pte Ltd., and the CEO of Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS) as well as the Managing Director of Conergy Renewable Energy Singapore.

The Advanced Packing Technology Symposium on May 21 will focus on healthcare and communication. The keynote will be presented by Dr Sywert Brongersma, the Principal Researcher of IMEC/Holst Centre, and Mr Tero Marjamaki, Head of Portfolio Planning of Nokia. The Wafer Processing Technology keynote will feature Jagadish CV, CEO of SSMC.

In addition, for the first time in Southeast Asia, all major Automated Test Equipment (ATE) companies will be presenting at the same session, their products and test technologies in the Product Test Engineering programme on May 21.

About SEMI

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, Beijing, Brussels, Hsinchu, Moscow, San Jose, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.semi.org

ASSOCIATION CONTACTS:

Karen Lo/SEMI

Ph: 886.3.573.3399 ext. 218

E-mail: klo@semi.org

Rebecca Chong/SEMI

Ph: 65.6412.0657

E-mail: rchong@semi.org

#