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# DAINIPPON SCREEN AND ASML COLLABORATE ON PHOTOLITHOGRAPHY PROCESSES AND PERFORMANCE

Kyoto, Japan and Veldhoven, the Netherlands, November 19, 2003 – Dainippon Screen Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Dainippon Screen) and ASML Holding NV (ASML) have entered into an agreement that focuses on developing seamless litho-clustering methods for existing and next generation technology. Litho-cluster is the linking of track and lithography systems used in semiconductor manufacturing.

Dainippon Screen and ASML will accomplish this goal by installing Dainippon Screen's track systems in the ASML research and development laboratory in Veldhoven. Customers will benefit from closer cooperation between track and lithography vendors as improved litho-clustering techniques and technology increase productivity and CD control.

Current litho-cluster integration methods use very basic wafer transfer scenarios resulting in inconsistent timing between the processes and slower throughput. The joint program will create interface controls for managing track and scanner functions as a single system and explore performance capabilities and process enhancements.

"ASML is committed to the integration of track and lithography systems for the benefit of our customers. This strategic collaboration with Dainippon Screen focuses on developing seamless litho-clustering methods for existing and next-generation technology. Customers should soon see improvements in their litho cluster performance, like productivity and linewidth control, resulting from cooperation like this between litho suppliers and track suppliers." said Mr. Martin van den Brink, executive vice president, marketing and technology, ASML.

"Dainippon Screen is proud to partner with ASML in this endeavor," said Takashige Suetake, COO and president, Semiconductor Equipment Company, Dainippon Screen. "Increased sophistication of the track / scanner interface will be necessary to meet future lithography requirements and provide our customers with the technology and productivity enhancements they need."

Along with improvements in combined productivity, the two companies will optimize the process performance required for next-generation optical lithography, including high-NA ArF,

immersion ArF and F2 (157 nm) lithography. In addition, the collaboration will develop Automated Process Control (APC) systems using integrated metrology units installed in the track.

Dainippon Screen will install its 300-mm RF³ coater/developer system in the ASML Development Laboratory in Veldhoven, the Netherlands to establish proof of concept and explore performance capabilities and process enhancements. Installation is slated for November 2003. Higher volume tool shipments are scheduled to begin January 2004. The RF³ is configured to provide 150 wafers per hour throughput for advanced process flows. Dainippon Screen announced plans to increase the throughput to 180 wafers per hour by 2006. The RF³ will be linked with an ASML TWINSCAN™ system.

#### About **ASML**

ASML is the world's leading provider of lithography systems for the semiconductor industry, manufacturing complex machines that are critical to the production of integrated circuits or chips. Headquartered in Veldhoven, the Netherlands, ASML is traded on Euronext Amsterdam and NASDAQ under the symbol ASML. For more information, visit the Web site at www.asml.com.

### About **Dainippon Screen**

Dainippon Screen Manufacturing Co., Ltd. was established in 1943 and is one of the leading suppliers of semiconductor fabrication equipment. All of the company's production sites are certified for ISO9001 as well as for ISO14001 Environmental Management System. Dainippon Screen is a public company quoted on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Home page: http://www.screen.co.jp/

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