

Dainippon Screen Captures the Top Share of the Global Market for All Types of Semiconductor Cleaning Equipment

The Semiconductor Equipment Company (President: Eiji Kakiuchi) of Dainippon Screen Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Kyoto, Japan) led the global market for single wafer spray cleaning equipment with a 41.5%*¹ market share in 2007. With this achievement, Dainippon Screen has captured the leading share of the world market for all types of equipment used in the principal cleaning processes for semiconductor production.

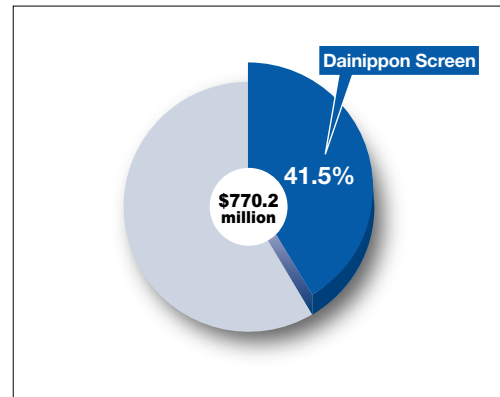
The recent trends toward further miniaturization and multilayered wiring have compelled the semiconductor industry to alter its processing methods. As a result, the industry requires a processing technology that is less likely to damage fine circuit patterns. Moreover, contaminants such as minute dust particles and metal impurities are now having a more serious impact on product yields and reliability. Therefore, the wafer cleaning processes—which represent about one-quarter of all production processes—are reflecting a growing trend toward the adoption of single wafer spray cleaning equipment*² for pre-wiring processes, in contrast to its conventional use mainly in post-wiring processes. Clearly, the market for this cleaning equipment is likely to continue expanding.

In order to respond rapidly to this evolving market, Dainippon Screen has sought to develop equipment that is widely applicable to cleaning processes for semiconductors with a circuit pattern width of 45 nanometers (a nanometer is one billionth of a meter) and beyond. The company has done so earlier than its competitors while further improving the performance of its single wafer cleaning equipment. By combining the company's proven product development capabilities with its outstanding process technology, Dainippon Screen has succeeded in developing equipment that is effectively meeting market needs. With rapidly increasing shipments to the U.S.A. and Taiwan and a large share of the domestic Japanese market, Dainippon Screen has remarkably increased its global share of the single wafer spray cleaning equipment market from 34.0% in 2006 to 41.5% in 2007. Dainippon Screen has already attained an overwhelming 50% share of the global market for batch cleaning equipment*³ and at least 70% of the market for spin scrubbers*⁴. Considering its recently growing share of the single wafer cleaning equipment market, Dainippon Screen has established the leading global position for all types of equipment used in the principal cleaning processes. This achievement further strengthens Dainippon Screen's position in the market for semiconductor cleaning equipment.

With the goal of attaining an even larger share of this market, Dainippon Screen remains committed to providing a varied line of cleaning equipment in the future and to further strengthening its product competitiveness and service systems, whose excellence is proven by its market share. Moreover, in an effort to further enhance customer satisfaction, Dainippon Screen intends to respond with flexibility to technical innovations and the diverse needs of the semiconductor industry.

- *1 Source: "Semiconductor Manufacturing Equipment Market Share: Database", Takashi Ogawa, (GJ08298, Gartner Research, Published on April 11, 2008)
- *2 Single wafer spray cleaning equipment
Equipment that cleans an individual wafer with a chemical spray
- *3 Batch cleaning equipment
Equipment that cleans several wafers simultaneously in a chemical bath
- *4 Spin scrubber
Equipment that cleans wafers physically with a soft brush and deionized water

- * Dainippon Screen will present its single wafer cleaning equipment and its varied line of other semiconductor production equipment at SEMICON West 2008 in San Francisco, U.S.A. from July 15 to 17.



Global market share of single wafer cleaning equipment in fiscal 2007