



Etec Announces the DigiRite 2500e UV Laser Direct Imaging System

April 4, 2000

HAYWARD, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 4, 2000--Etec Systems, Inc., an Applied Materials, Inc. company, today announced the introduction of the DigiRite(R) 2500e UV Laser Direct Imaging System.

The DigiRite 2500e system features advanced fiducial recognition capabilities and other unique features that enable high-yield imaging of fine features previously unavailable without phototools.

William Ryan, general manager of the Etec Interconnect Products Group, stated, "The DigiRite 2500e system is an enhancement of the direct imaging technology already proven at Etec installations worldwide. The new system has a unique fiducial recognition feature that allows interconnect makers to use laser-skived fiducials for laser direct imaging. This adds compatibility with laser drill technology systems to the product and is an important benefit to our users."

The DigiRite 2500e system includes several important features from its predecessor, the DigiRite 2000, including automatic alignment, autocompensation and anamorphic scaling for accurate imaging of fine features, and off-line data conversion for higher productivity.

The DigiRite 2500e is designed to be extendible -- future upgrades are expected to allow imaging of features as small as 25 microns (0.001 inch), and to enable the system to produce silicon packaging components such as ball grid arrays.

The DigiRite 2500e system will be demonstrated at Etec's booth, number 1530, at the IPC Printed Circuits Expo, in San Diego, April 4-6, 2000.

Etec, an Applied Materials Company, is headquartered in Hayward. The leader in patterning solutions for the worldwide semiconductor and electronics industries, its products include electron- and laser- beam systems that product high-precision masks used to print circuit patterns onto semiconductor wafers and large-area laser direct imaging systems for electronic interconnect applications. Founded in 1970, Etec has manufacturing facilities in Hayward, Hillsboro, Ore., and Tucson, Ariz., and sales and service offices worldwide. The company's World Wide Web site can be accessed at <http://www.etec.com>.

Applied Materials, Inc. is a Fortune 500 global growth company and the world's largest supplier of wafer fabrication systems and services to the global semiconductor industry. Applied Materials is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "AMAT." Applied Materials' website is <http://www.appliedmaterials.com>.

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