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## **VLSI RESEARCH INC**

### **\$1B Probe Card Market in 2006**

Santa Clara, CA, June 29, 2006: According to VLSI Research Inc, 2005 was another strong year for probe cards used in testing semiconductor wafers, and the market is expected to reach almost \$1B this year. Very strong demand for Memory testing pushed total semiconductor probe card revenues to \$838M in 2005, up 19.5% from \$702M in 2004. The market is projected to grow a further 19.1%, close to \$1B, in 2006. Memory testing continues to be the major growth driver and now accounts for 50% of the market.

Demand for Cantilever probe cards grew only slightly in 2005 and most of the growth came from Advanced probe cards, which include Vertical, Membrane, Spring, and MEMS technologies. Advanced cards continue to gain overall share due to the demands from Memory testing and also from high complexity logic test and Bump wafer test, for which they offer a performance advantage.

FormFactor and JEM maintained their strong lead in the top supplier ranking for 2005, followed by Micronics Japan Co., Ltd (MJC) who took third place from Kulicke & Soffa's test division. Tokyo Cathode Laboratories held their fifth ranking.

**TOP 5 Semiconductor Probe Card Vendors - 2005**

*(Including Service & Spares)*

<b>2005 Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>2005 \$M</b>	<b>2004 Rank</b>	<b>2004 \$M</b>
1	FormFactor	237.5	1	177.8
2	JEM: Japan Electronic Materials	130.9	2	115.7
3	Micronics Japan Co., Ltd (MJC)	78.8	4	65.1
4	Kulicke & Soffa Test Div	49.5	3	65.2
5	Tokyo Cathode Laboratories Inc	39.0	5	35.8

Source: VLSI RESEARCH INC

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Contact: Client Services

Email: [clientservices@vlsiresearch.com](mailto:clientservices@vlsiresearch.com)

Tel: (408) 453-8844 Fax: (408) 437-0608

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