

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VLSI RESEARCH INC**

**Best Customer-Rated Equipment Suppliers in China**

Santa Clara, CA – March 19, 2007 - VLSI Research Inc is pleased to announce the best equipment suppliers as rated by customers in China. These 15 companies were the cream of the crop among 64 suppliers rated by equipment users in China during the spring of 2006. Data is based on the annual customer satisfaction survey covering 95% of the world's total semiconductor market. The survey asked equipment users to rate equipment suppliers on thirteen criteria.

<i>Best Customer-Rated Equipment Suppliers in China</i>			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Overall Rating *</i>	<i>Best-Rated Criteria for Each Company</i>
1	Varian Semiconductor	8.61	Build quality
2	Credence Systems Corporation	8.24	Field engineering support
3	ESEC	7.79	Uptime
4	Axcelis Technologies	7.72 *	Quality of results
5	Tokyo Electron Limited	7.72 *	Build quality
6	DISCO Corporation	7.71	Field engineering support
7	Kulicke & Soffa	7.49	Build quality and Commitment (tie**)
8	Applied Materials, Inc.	7.48	Usable throughput, Quality of results, and Commitment (three-way-tie**)
9	ACCRETECH - Tokyo Seimitsu	7.45	Uptime and Build quality (tie**)
10	Verigy	7.40	Quality of results and Product performance (tie**)
11	Teradyne, Inc.	7.36	Usable throughput
12	Delta Design	7.15	Quality of results and Process support (tie**)
13	Lintec Corporation	7.05	Field engineering support
14	Advantest	6.80	Build quality
15	Shinkawa Ltd.	6.74	Uptime and Quality of results (tie**)

\* In cases where a tie has occurred, the ranking position is determined by a single-sided 97.5% confidence margin.

\*\* The top-rated criteria for this company was a tie between two or more criteria.

Results are derived from the customer satisfaction survey run in the spring of 2006.

## **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

The VLSI Research annual *Customer Satisfaction Survey on Chip Making Equipment* is the only publicly available opportunity for chip manufacturers to provide feedback on their suppliers.

The results were drawn from a distribution of 44,130 questionnaires sent worldwide by mail, email and fax in six languages: English, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, German, and French. About one in sixteen industry employees received a survey. Virtually every chipmaker was given a chance to respond.

Respondents returned surveys rating 4,505 equipment models. The companies that responded to VLSI Research's customer satisfaction survey represented 95% of worldwide chip production in 2004. When calculating each of the thirteen separate categories previously mentioned, total responses comprised about 56,000 individual ratings across the categories, each on a scale of 1 through 10.

Demographic distribution of the ratings was 30.1% from North America, 25.0% from Europe, 10.3% from Japan, 8.3% from Taiwan, 6.9% from China, 6.2% from Korea, and 13.1% from all other areas of the world.

The survey asked users of chip making equipment to rate their suppliers on a ten-point scale among thirteen categories that exemplify a supplier's relationship with its customers. These thirteen categories included seven measures of equipment performance and six measures of customer service. *Cost of ownership, uptime, software, build quality, usable throughput, quality of results, and product performance* were the equipment performance measures. Customer service measures included *process support, field engineering support, spares support, support after sales, technical leadership in the supplier's field, and the supplier's overall commitment to supporting its customers' needs*.

**OVERALL SURVEY STATISTICS**

Percent of Chip Market Represented:	95%
Surveys Distributed:	44,130
Equipment Models Rated:	4,505
From Asia:	32%
From North America:	30%
From Europe:	25%
From Other:	13%

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