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VLSI RESEARCH INC

2006 VLSI Research Inc 10 BEST Awards for Test, Material Handling, and Assembly Equipment - Nextest, SUSS MicroTec, and ACCRETECH achieve highest rankings

Santa Clara, CA - June 20, 2006 - VLSI Research Inc is pleased to announce the winners of the coveted 2006 10 BEST awards for Test Equipment, Material Handling Equipment, and Assembly Equipment. Rankings are based on surveys returned from customers who represented 95% of the world's total semiconductor market.



2006 10 BEST TEST EQUIPMENT		
Rank	Company	Overall Rating[†]
1	Nextest Systems Corporation	7.95
2	Advantest	7.41
3	Inovys Corporation	7.35
4	Teradyne, Inc.	7.33
5	Credence Systems Corporation	7.32
6	Verigy / Agilent	7.26
7	FEI Company	7.01
8	SPEA	6.94
9	LTX Corporation	6.57
10	Testram Co., Ltd.	6.38

2006 10 BEST MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
Rank	Company	Overall Rating[†]
1	SUSS MicroTec	8.02
2	Seiko Epson Corporation	7.59
3	ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	7.36
4	Rasco GmbH	7.33
5	Electroglas, Inc.	7.20
6	Multitest	7.17
7	Advantest	7.16
8	Tokyo Electron Limited	7.14
9	Shinano Electronics Co., Ltd.	7.10
10	Cascade Microtech, Inc.	7.09

2006 10 BEST ASSEMBLY EQUIPMENT		
Rank	Company	Overall Rating[†]
1	ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	8.28
2	HANMI Semiconductor	8.07
3	Orthodyne Electronics	8.01
4	DISCO Corporation	7.99
5	Towa Corporation	7.69
6	ICOS Vision Systems Corporation NV	7.62
7	ASM International N.V.	7.60
8	Alphasem	7.55
9	Kulicke & Soffa	7.53
10	F & K Delvotec Bondtechnik GmbH	7.35

Test Equipment Suppliers

Among the 10 BEST Test Equipment suppliers, Nextest captured the best scores in six of the thirteen rating categories – *cost of ownership, uptime, usable throughput, product performance, spares support,*

and *support after sales*. Inovys claimed the top spot in the three categories of *software*, *process support*, and *commitment*. FEI Company was the highest rated for *field engineering support* and *technical leadership*. Advantest achieved the best marks for *build quality*, while Testram had the top ratings in *quality of results*.

Most of the Test Equipment companies earned their best ratings in the equipment performance criteria, but three firms scored very well in customer service criteria as well – Credence, FEI, and SPEA. The table below lists the highest-rated category for each individual company:

Company	Highest Rated Category
Nextest Systems Corporation	Cost of ownership and usable throughput (two-way tie)
Advantest	Build quality
Inovys Corporation	Software
Teradyne, Inc.	Usable throughput and quality of results (two-way tie)
Credence Systems Corporation	Spares support and quality of results (two-way tie)
Verigy / Agilent	Uptime and quality of results (two-way tie)
FEI Company	Product performance, field engineering support, technical leadership (three-way tie)
SPEA	Commitment
LTX Corporation	Usable throughput
Testram Co., Ltd.	Quality of results

Material Handling Equipment Suppliers

Among the 10 BEST Material Handling Equipment suppliers, SUSS MicroTec achieved the highest ratings in six categories including *build quality*, *process support*, *field engineering support*, *spares support*, *support after sales*, and *commitment*. Seiko Epson received the top scores in *uptime* and *software*. Shinano Electronics captured the best ratings in *usable throughput* and *product performance*. Cascade Microtech claimed the highest scores in *quality of results* and *technical leadership*. ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu was rated the best for *cost of ownership*.

The majority of the Material Handling Equipment companies excelled in the equipment performance criteria, but a couple firms received their top ratings in customer service criteria – SUSS MicroTec and Cascade Microtech. The next table lists the best-rated category for each individual company:

Company	Highest Rated Category
SUSS MicroTec	Support after sales, technical leadership, commitment (three-way tie)
Seiko Epson Corporation	Uptime
ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	Usable throughput and uptime (two-way tie)
Rasco GmbH	Build quality
Electroglass, Inc.	Uptime
Multitest	Build quality
Advantest	Quality of results and build quality (two-way tie)
Tokyo Electron Limited	Quality of results and usable throughput (two-way tie)
Shinano Electronics Co., Ltd.	Uptime
Cascade Microtech, Inc.	Technical leadership

Assembly Equipment Suppliers

Among the 10 BEST Assembly Equipment suppliers, ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu swept seven of the thirteen categories with the highest score in *quality of results*, *product performance*, *process support*, *field engineering support*, *support after sales*, *spares support*, and *commitment*. ACCRETECH tied with Orthodyne for the best in *build quality*. Also, ACCRETECH tied with HANMI Semiconductor in the two categories of *software* and *usable throughput*. Additionally, HANMI captured the top rating in *technical leadership*. ICOS Vision Systems achieved the best results for *cost of ownership* and *uptime*.

Eight of the ten Assembly Equipment companies were rated stronger in the equipment performance traits than in customer service traits. Only ASM International and F & K Delvotec earned their best ratings in a customer service category. The table below lists the top-rated category for each individual company:

Company	Highest Rated Category
ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	Quality of results
HANMI Semiconductor	Usable throughput
Orthodyne Electronics	Build quality
DISCO Corporation	Uptime
Towa Corporation	Uptime
ICOS Vision Systems Corporation NV	Uptime
ASM International N.V.	Commitment and technical leadership (two-way tie)
Alphasem	Uptime
Kulicke & Soffa	Quality of results
F & K Delvotec Bondtechnik GmbH	Technical leadership

This is the second announcement in a series of three press releases listing the 10 BEST companies in each competitive segment. The next release will announce the two overall 10 BEST segments – focused and large suppliers.

Last year's 10 BEST lists for Test & Material Handling and Assembly Equipment suppliers are shown below for reference. Note that Test & Material Handling Equipment was combined in one 10 BEST list in 2005. Prior years' lists can be found at <https://www.vlsiresearch.com> in the Reference section under Press Releases for the Customer Satisfaction Survey.

2005 10 BEST TEST & MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
Rank	Company	Overall Rating [†]
1	SUSS MicroTec	8.40
2	ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	7.81
3	Tokyo Electron Limited	7.75
4	Credence Systems Corporation	7.38
5	Agilent Technologies, Inc.	7.35
6	Advantest	7.32
7	Multitest	7.31
8	Teradyne, Inc.	7.04
9	Electroglas, Inc.	6.92
10	Delta Design	6.86

2005 10 BEST ASSEMBLY EQUIPMENT		
Rank	Company	Overall Rating [†]
1	Orthodyne Electronics	8.39
2	DISCO Corporation	8.13
3	ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	8.04
4	Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc.	7.43
5	Shinkawa Ltd.	7.37
6	ASM International	7.34
7	ESEC	7.30
8	BE Semiconductor Industries	7.25
9	F & K Delvotec Bondtechnik GmbH	7.18
10	Alphasem AG	7.00

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 10 BEST rankings award special recognition to the suppliers that are rated highest by their customers.

The survey asks 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 include seven measures of equipment performance and six measures of customer service. *Cost of ownership, uptime, software, build quality, usable throughput, quality of results achieved, and product performance* are the equipment performance measures. Customer service measures include *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.

VLSI Research Inc conducts these surveys across sixty major equipment market segments and compiles competitive positioning reports for each segment. These sixty categories are grouped into the six major market categories of wafer processing equipment (small and large companies), test equipment, material handling equipment, process diagnostics equipment, and assembly equipment.

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 equipment ratings returned 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.

A new 10 BEST methodology was implemented this year. There are two parts to the new methodology. The first part is that the qualification rule for the 10 BEST Awards is based on the *Respondents' Share of Market* statistic. This statistic is the sum of share of market held by unique companies responding to the survey for each specific equipment supplier and equipment type.

The second part of the new 10 BEST methodology is the calculation of the 10 BEST ranking itself. The rankings are based on the **equally weighted average** rather than the straight average. This rating is weighted equally for each unique responding company (not individual survey response). Hence, each surveyed company only gets "one vote", based on the average of the individuals from that company responding to the survey. This rating method has the advantage that no single customer- company can stuff the ballot box, giving a much more meaningful picture for potential effects on market share.

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

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