FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VLSI RESEARCH INC

2008 Best Customer-Rated Equipment Suppliers in Taiwan

Santa Clara, CA – September 10, 2008 - VLSI Research Inc is pleased to announce the best equipment suppliers as rated by customers in Taiwan. These 10 companies were the supreme contenders among 52 suppliers rated by equipment users in Taiwan. 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.

	2008 Best Customer-Rated Equipment Suppliers in Taiwan		
Rank	*Company*	*Overall Rating*	*Personal Best Criteria for Each Company*
1	Varian Semiconductor	9.40	Throughput
2	Hitachi High-Technologies Corp.	8.28	Build quality
3	Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc.	8.17	Technical leadership and Commitment (two-way-tie**)
4	ACCRETECH - Tokyo Seimitsu Co., Ltd	8.13	Field engineering support
5	Oerlikon Balzers Coating / Systems	7.95	Quality of results
6	KLA - Tencor	7.94	Product performance
7	Novellus Systems, Inc.	7.93	Build quality
8	Advantest	7.85	Quality of results
9	Tokyo Electron	7.76	Uptime
10	SUSS Microtec	7.74	Build quality

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

Results are derived from the customer satisfaction survey run in the spring of 2008.

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 statistics were drawn from a distribution of 66,717 questionnaires sent worldwide by mail, email, and fax in six languages: English, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, German, and French. Virtually every chipmaker was given a chance to respond.

Respondents returned surveys rating 4,565 equipment models. The companies that responded to VLSI Research's customer satisfaction survey represent 95% of worldwide chip production. When calculating each of the thirteen separate categories previously mentioned, total responses comprised about 59,300 individual ratings across the categories, each on a scale of 1 through 10.

There are two parts to the 10 BEST 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 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:	66,717
Equipment Models Rated:	4,565
From North America:	28.8%
From Europe:	20.8%
From China:	11.9%
From Korea:	10.0%
From Taiwan:	9.5%
From Japan:	9.0%
From Other:	10.0%

doc # 599169v 1.0 09/08