

DuPont Air Products NanoMaterials Unveils New Colloidal Silica Slurry for Enhanced Chemical Mechanical Planarization

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Today at SEMICON® Europa, DuPont Air Products NanoMaterials L.L.C. ("DA NanoMaterials"), a 50/50 joint venture company of DuPont (NYSE:DD) and Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. (NYSE:APD), unveiled an ammonia-stabilized colloidal silica slurry for enhanced chemical mechanical planarization (CMP) processes. CMP involves the mechanical grinding and chemical etching of various dielectric and metal layers in the manufacture of an integrated circuit.

Slurries are comprised of very fine silica particles dispersed in water along with chemicals. They are used to polish surfaces of electronic substrates and devices to smooth finishes. DA NanoMaterials' newest slurry offering will be marketed under the Ascend® OX-200 trademark, joining other slurries the joint venture markets under its Syton® and Mazin® trademarks.

Ascend OX-200 slurry has an average particle size of 40 nanometers. It contains low levels of metals and sodium and is recommended for CMP applications which may be sensitive to these impurities. In comparative analyses of Ascend OX-200 and a competitive colloidal slurry on both one-platen and multi-platen tools, Ascend OX-200 was proven to provide better removal rates and lower defective rates.

DA NanoMaterials will manufacture the slurry blend at its world-class facility in Ruabon, Wales to supply the global slurry market—an estimated \$500 million annual market that is growing at a rate of 20–25 percent per year.

"Ascend OX-200 slurry has proven performance utilizing various tool parameters that allow the process to be dialed into specific performance requirements," noted Michael C. Springman, vice president, Sales and Marketing for DA NanoMaterials. "It is another important addition to our growing product line as we look to provide better slurry and services and respond to our customers' needs even faster."

Mr. Springman noted that the slurry has already been tested and proven both in the company's laboratories and at numerous customer sites. The development and commercialization of Ascend OX-200 initially sprang from market demand for a versatile slurry that could be used in both STI and interlayer dielectric polishing applications.

Headquartered in Carlsbad, Calif., DuPont Air Products NanoMaterials L.L.C. (www.nanoslurry.com) combines the expertise of DuPont in developing and manufacturing colloidal silica sols and particles for electronic applications with Air Products' manufacturing and technical leadership, on-site management capabilities, sales and marketing infrastructure and logistics expertise in providing the broad range of electronic gases and chemicals that surround a process tool. The company operates a manufacturing and formulation facility in Ruabon, U.K.; a state-of-the-art applications and formulation laboratory in Tempe, Arizona; a silica lab at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; and a formulation laboratory at Utsunomyia, Japan.

NOTE: Forward-Looking Statements: This news release contains forward-looking statements based on management's current expectations, estimates and projections. All statements that address expectations or projections about the future, including statements about the joint venture company's strategy for growth, product development, market position, expected expenditures and financial results are forward-looking statements. Some of the forward-looking statements may be identified by words like "expects," "anticipates," "plans," "intends," "projects," "indicates," and similar expressions. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Many factors, including those discussed more fully elsewhere in this release and in DuPont and Air Products' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, particularly their latest annual reports on Form 10-K, as well as others, could cause results to differ materially from those stated. These factors include, but are not limited to changes in the laws, regulations, policies and economic conditions of countries in which the companies do business; competitive pressures; successful integration of structural changes, including acquisitions, divestitures and alliances; and research and development of new products, including regulatory approval and market acceptance.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Air Products' SEMICON Europa virtual press kit is available at www.airproducts.com/pressroom.

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