

March Plasma Systems Dramatically Improves Throughput of Industry Leading PCB Plasma Treatment System

Concord, CA, February 2007 –March Plasma Systems announced today the release of improved PCB panel pre-etch conditioning technology. With this new technology the company's industry proven PCB series products can dramatically increase the throughput in applications such as desmear and etchback. Productivity improvements of more than 30% can be achieved with this new system enhancement. The new product feature will be implemented on all new PCB series shipments, and is also available for retrofit on existing systems.

The typical three plasma process steps required for high uniformity treatment in desmear and etchback applications include a pre-etch segment, a desmear or etchback segment, and a residual reactant removal segment. The PCB panel pre-etch segment is required to ensure controlled etch across each panel within an individual processing cell as well as from processing cell to processing cell. This PCB panel conditioning directly results in a more uniform plasma treatment. Minimizing the time required for each segment results in improved throughput of the PCB system. The new pre-etch conditioning technology reduces this segment's time by more than 65%, directly resulting in improved PCB system throughput.

"March has always been a technology-driven company and this latest innovation adds to our list of continuous improvement to our PCB product platform," said James Getty, Director of Applications Engineering at March Plasma Systems.

"Our technology gives us a competitive edge in the marketplace with our advanced plasma processing equipment. We are confident that this new technology addition will find rapid acceptance with our customers."



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About March Plasma Systems:

March Plasma Systems is the global leader in plasma processing technology for the PCB, semiconductor, and microelectronics industries. March has operations, applications laboratories, and customer support centers worldwide, including California, Florida, Europe, Singapore, China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. With over 20 years of continuous innovation, March designs and manufactures a complete line of award-winning and patented plasma processing systems. An expert staff of scientists and engineers is available to assist in the design of plasma processes that improve both product reliability and increase production yields. Contact March Plasma Systems directly or see the March web site for more details:

For more information, visit the March Plasma Systems web site at www.marchplasma.com or contact March Plasma Systems directly.

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