



## **Pivotal Introduces Industry's First Advanced Etch End Point System With Adoption by Leading IDMs**

**PIVOTAL'S OMEGA 3.0 PROVIDES RELIABLE END POINTING OF  
LOW EXPOSED AREA OXIDE ETCHES**

**Pleasanton, CA.—July 15, 2005**—Pivotal Systems Corporation today announced its breakthrough Omega 3.0 etch end point solution has been adopted into high volume production by three leading semiconductor manufacturers. The Omega end point system provides robust and repeatable end points for critical low exposed area contact and via oxide etch processes where existing chamber-based optical emission spectroscopy (OES) solutions have not worked.

### **The Need for Low Exposed Area Oxide Etch End Point**

Consistently and reliably calling end points on dielectric via or contact etches where the exposed area is less than 5% has been an elusive goal for the industry. As a result, most fabs implement fixed time etch approaches for these processes. As device dimensions tighten, however, a fixed time etch approach will increasingly suffer from yield loss due to frequent over or under etching. "Pivotal's Omega 3.0 etch end point system reliably calls end point under 5% through the use of innovative RF and remote plasma sensor technology coupled with advanced algorithms for enhanced signal to noise performance on end point detection. The result is a robust system that can reliably call end point wafer after wafer in high volume production, resulting in higher overall yields," said Chuck Borowski, Pivotal's Director of Product Marketing.

### **High Volume Production Adoption**

"Since release of the product earlier this year, we have been very pleased with the performance and results seen by our IDM customers. In some cases, our end point systems have been able to deliver single digit percentage end of line yield improvements, which make for a very compelling ROI," said Joseph Monkowski, Pivotal's President and Chief Executive Officer. "The proof is really in the adoption of this solution by three leading IDM partners and we expect to gain more wins in the near future."

### **About Pivotal Systems**

Pivotal Systems Corporation provides best-in-class monitoring and process control technology for the semiconductor manufacturing industry. Pivotal's vision is to enable an order of magnitude increase in fab productivity and capital efficiency for current and future technology nodes. This vision is achieved through its real time in situ process monitoring and control solutions. Founded in 2003 and based in Pleasanton, California, the company is led by veterans from the semiconductor and high-tech industries. For more information about Pivotal, please visit [www.pivotalsys.com](http://www.pivotalsys.com), or send an email to [info@pivotalsys.com](mailto:info@pivotalsys.com).