



## News Release

2002 July 18

### **WaferMasters Introduces Industry's First System Designed for Copper Annealing.**

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA — WaferMasters, Incorporated, a wafer-processing equipment supplier, today announced a family of patented thermal processing systems called the Stacked Annealing Oven (SAO) suitable for processing 150 mm, 200 mm and 300 mm wafers. The systems is ideally suited for copper processing with no direct contact between the hotplates and the wafers. The SAO systems process up to five wafers simultaneously at temperatures up to 500°C and utilize uniquely designed process environmental controls.

WaferMasters also announced their first order for the SAO system from a major European semiconductor manufacturer, following successful beta and production testing at a 300 mm fab in Japan. The SAO systems are not only the lowest priced systems of this type in the industry, but boast the lowest cost of ownership with efficient material usage and over 4,000 hours mean-time-between failures (MTBF). This energy system's power consumption is less than 5 kW, less than 25% of similar systems.

"The SAO system is highly productive without sacrificing the process quality one finds in single-wafer systems. This appeals to customers because today's wafer manufacturers are struggling with balancing productivity and process quality," notes Dr. Woo Sik Yoo, president and co-founder of WaferMasters. "Our design philosophy, applied to all of our system families, is to work with the laws of physics, in this case, both conduction and convection, for efficient and gentle wafer heating, to introduce never-seen-before process control and on-wafer results."

Beyond copper annealing, the system is also suitable for aluminum sintering, hydrogen annealing, SOG Annealing, low-k dielectrics annealing, polyimide bake, SiLK annealing and compound semiconductor annealing. This is the third family of products WaferMasters has introduced to the market, and follows the successful introduction of the Single-wafer Rapid Thermal Furnace (SRTF) and the Table-Top Furnace (TTF).

#### About WaferMasters, Inc.

WaferMasters, Inc., founded in 1999, is a privately held manufacturer of thermal production tools used to fabricate advanced semiconductor devices. The company's core

philosophy is to produce elegantly simple equipment engineered to give customers stable and reproducible process results in a high production environment. Reduced process monitoring and high equipment utilization, combined with minimum consumables usage and low maintenance contribute to the lowest CoO in the industry for RTP and other thermal processing equipment. WaferMasters, Inc. maintains headquarters at 246 East Gish Road, San Jose, California 95112. Visit WaferMasters on the web at [www.wafermasters.com](http://www.wafermasters.com).