

SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURERS REDUCE PFC EMISSIONS

World's chipmakers on track to achieve 2010 goals for cutting emissions

Kyoto, Japan – May 19, 2005 – The world's semiconductor manufacturers are on track to achieve their goal of reducing atmospheric emissions of perfluorocompounds (PFCs) to 10 percent below baseline levels by 2010, according to the World Semiconductor Council (WSC). PFCs have been identified as global warming gases.

Working through the World Semiconductor Council (WSC), the semiconductor industry associations of EU, Japan, Korea, USA, and Taiwan, committed in 1999 to reduce emissions of PFCs to 10 percent below their respective baseline levels by 2010. Data released by the WSC today show that actual PFC emissions are being reduced at a rate slightly ahead of the target rate to achieve the 2010 goals.

“The cooperative effort by the members of the World Semiconductor Council to reduce PFC emissions is an excellent example of what we can accomplish when we work together,” said Satoru Ito, chairman of the World Semiconductor Council (WSC). “The industry associations that comprise the WSC and their member companies have worked aggressively on efforts to reduce the use of PFCs and to mitigate environmental impacts where these compounds are still essential to our manufacturing processes. We have also enjoyed excellent support and cooperation from the suppliers of equipment and materials in working for reduction of PFC emissions over the past 10 years.”

The semiconductor industry uses a number of gases classified as PFCs in both etching silicon and for chamber cleaning processes in wafer fabrication equipment. Chipmakers have been able to reduce PFC emissions by taking a number of actions including process optimization, use of alternative chemicals, employment of alternative manufacturing processes, and improved abatement systems.

The WSC has established a reporting program to track PFC emissions by the five semiconductor manufacturing associations. Members of the WSC cooperate and share relevant data on their respective PFC reduction programs through a working group that meets twice a year. Members of the WSC also share information on PFC reduction efforts at the industry's annual International Semiconductor Environment, Safety Health (ISESH) conference. Because the PFC emission reduction program is considered to be pre-competitive, members freely share information on techniques and strategies to reduce emissions.