# Careers for Physicists, Scientists, and Engineers in the Semiconductor Equipment Industry

Jerome Hubacek Managing Director Lam Research Corporation Fremont, CA



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# **Careers in the Semiconductor Equipment Industry**

- Introduction to the Semiconductor Equipment Industry
- Career opportunities
- Profile of the successful employee
- Transitioning from Graduate School to the Semiconductor Equipment Industry
- Keys to success



# Introduction to the Semiconductor Equipment Industry



## **Semiconductor Technology Continues to Drive New Capabilities**





# Market for Wafer Fabrication Equipment (WFE)





# **Semiconductor Equipment Manufacturer Revenues**

Rank	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1	Applied Materials				
2	Tokyo Electron	Tokyo Electron	ASML	ASML	ASML
3	ASML	ASML	Tokyo Electron	Tokyo Electron	Tokyo Electron
4	KLA-Tencor	KLA-Tencor	KLA-Tencor	KLA-Tencor	Lam Research
5	Lam Research	Lam Research	Lam Research*	Lam Research	KLA-Tencor
6	Nikon	Nikon	Nikon	Nikon	Dainip
7	Novellus Systems	Novellus Systems	Dainippon Screen	Dainippon Screen	Nikon
8	Dainippon Screen	Dainippon Screen	Hitachi High-Tech	Novellus Systems	Novellus Systems
9	Canon	Hitachi High-Tech	Novellus Systems	Aixtron	Aixtron
10	Hitachi High-Tech	Varian	Canon	Hitachi High-Tech	Varian

Lam acquisition of Novellus projected to close in Q2 2012

\* Includes SEZ AG, acquired 2008 Source: Gartner Dataquest







# Visualizing Moore's Law





# Moore's Law Has Evolved Over Time



Source: Gordon Moore, ISSCC 2003 & Intel 2010



## Implications of Moore's Law: Higher Performance, Lower Cost







#### Equipment Solutions must be ahead of customer needs to meet roadmap





# Predicting the End of Moore's Law: Historical Perspective

#### Materials Limitations:

"Copper is an intractable material. The reason we don't use copper is NOT because we haven't tried over the years." **Device Physics Limitations:** 

"...we get to 0.05 micron [50 nm] in something like 2017...so that's the end of Moore's Law!"

Lithography Limitations:

"[For lithography] to go down to 0.10 micron [100 nm]... there's hardly anything left at 193nm [wavelength]"

#### Uncertainty around the extendibility of Moore's Law has always existed

Source: "Moore's Law extended: The return of cleverness", Solid State Technology, July 1997



# **Continuous Innovation Enables Continuation of Moore's Law**





# Technology Inflections Enabling Continuation of Moore's Law



and going beyond double patterning

Quadruple

Patterning

Double

Patterning

(DPT)

Patterning

# Materials Used in Semiconductor Devices in the 1980's



Source: ITRS 2005, Lam Research

#### Materials used in the 80s



# Materials Used in Semiconductor Devices in the 1990's



Source: ITRS 2005, Lam Research

Materials in the 80s

Materials added in the 90s





# The Next Challenge – Growth in Potential New Materials

Etching and cleaning vastly different materials





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## The Edge of the Wafer Plays a Critical Role in Overall Economics







#### What variables define the available process space? - Etch Example

List of Process Variables (# different settings that can change the result on a wafer)

- Pressure (10mT, 20mT, … 100mT) = 10 settings
- Reactant Gas #1 flow rate (0sccm, 10sccm, 100sccm) = 10
- Reactant Gas #2 flow rate (0sccm, 1sccm, 10sccm) = 10
- Reactant Gas #16 flow rate (0sccm, 100sccm, 500sccm) = 5
- Power @ frequency #1 (0W, 100W, ..., 3000W) = 30
- Power @ frequency #2 (0W, 50W, ..., 500W) = 10
- Power @ frequency #3 (0W, 100W, …, 1000W) = 10

10 x 10 x 10 ... x 5 x 30 x 10 x 10 x ... = 10<sup>(really big number)</sup>





- ...

- ...

### Now add in hardware and wafer variables...

Process Variables (different settings that can change the result on a wafer)

- Pressure (10mT, 20mT, ... 100mT) = 10 settings
- Reactant Gas #1 flow rate (0sccm, 10sccm, 100sccm) = 10
- Reactant Gas #2 flow rate (0sccm, 1sccm, 10sccm) = 10
- ...
- Reactant Gas #16 flow rate (0sccm, 100sccm, 500sccm) = 5 \_
- Power @ frequency #1 (0W, 100W, ..., 3000W) = 30
- Power @ frequency #2 (0W, 50W, ..., 500W) = 10
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...

- Hardware variables
  - Chamber diameter
  - **Chamber heights**
  - **Chamber temperature**
  - Wafer temperature
  - Chamber materials chemical properties \_
  - **Chamber materials electrical properties**
- Wafer variables
  - Material being etched
  - Type of mask (photoresist)
  - Percent exposed area of wafer being etched
  - Substrate resistivity







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# How Can We Possibly Pick "One in a Trillion"

- Learn from past experience (Knowledge Management).
- Use modeling to help narrow the space.
- Use sensors, diagnostics and "smart" software.
- Hire really smart and motivated people.
- Run lots of experiments.





# Semiconductor Equipment Industry Career Opportunities





# **Semiconductor Equipment Industry Jobs**

- Design/Hardware Engineer: Creates the knobs
- Supplier Engineer: Develops suppliers to make the knobs
- Process Engineer: Determines what knobs are needed and turns the knobs to optimize for customer applications
- Product Engineer: Optimizes the knobs
- Field Engineer: Solves problems with the knobs on site

Technical background and industry experience are required for many product development functions including Technical Marketing, Product Management, Supplier Business Management



# Semiconductor Equipment Industry Employee Profile





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# Semiconductor Equipment Industry: Employee Profile

#### Majors:

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Engineering (Electrical, Chemical, Mechanical, Materials Science)
- Computer Science
- Education: PhD, MS, BS
- Lam Research Statistics
  - Total Employees: >3800
  - Advanced Degrees: ~1200
  - PhD's: ~400
  - UIUC Grads: 21 (13 PhD's)
- Advanced degrees with experimental experience are preferred
  - Direct semiconductor experience is <u>NOT</u> required
  - Strong foundation in coursework and experimental work (wafer processing, vacuum, low temp, plasmas, metrology, transport measurements, optics, etc.)
  - Design, Simulation, and Modeling experience (CAD, FEA, CFD, plasmas, etc.)
  - Managing research projects (budget, plan, and build experimental setups, write proposals)
  - Multi-cultural: Semiconductor Equipment is a global industry

## Lam Research Global Support – Close to Our Customers





# Transitioning from Grad School to the Semiconductor Equipment Industry





### Similarities b/w Grad School and the Semiconductor Equipment Industry

- Have a passion for what you do you are going to be doing it for a long time
  - Time from entering college to graduation with a PhD: ~8-11 years
  - Time in your career: >>20 years
- Learn at every opportunity
  - On the job, in the lab, coursework, outside reading, seminars
- <u>Communication</u> is critical
  - Good ideas can go to waste if not properly communicated
  - Confront small issues before they get big
- Hard work is necessary to maximize your opportunities
  - "The more you practice, the luckier you get."
- You have very few <u>customers treat them well</u>
  - Grad School: Your advisor, your professors, colleagues
  - Industry: 70% of capital equipment purchases are made by 10 customers



## **Differences** b/w Grad School and the Semiconductor Equipment Industry

#### The product is different (How you keep score)

- Grad school: Teaching, learning (grades), papers, grants (Publish or Perish)
- Industry: Selling goods and services for profit (Profit or Perish)

#### The <u>approach</u> is different

- Grad school: Learning on the job → mistakes are expected and ok (as long as you learn from them); nothing is "beneath" you; prove a concept
- Industry: Mistakes must be minimized; employees work on things at or above their grade level; prove in production

#### The <u>customer</u> is different

- Grad school: Work is directed by advisors, professors, and funding agencies based on broad guidelines; students are the primary users of experimental equipment
- Industry: Work is dictated by shareholders, markets, competition, and detailed customer requirements; customers (operators) are the primary users of the equipment Not allowed: "Designed by PhD's for PhD's"

#### The <u>milestones</u> are different

- Grad school: Milestones are based on exam dates, graduation dates, conferences
- Industry: Milestones are customer and finance driven; patents are part of development
- The money is different

# Lam Research Continues to Invest Through the Cycles

- Revenue of \$2.8B in CY 2011
- More than \$1B invested in R&D over last three years
- R&D investment continues through downturns → Moore's Lam holds through cycles



# Keys to Success in the Semiconductor Equipment Industry



## Keys to Success in the Semiconductor Equipment Industry

#### Solve problems systematically

- Know what problem you are trying to solve (Listen carefully)
- Involve all stakeholders in the process
- Know what success looks like
- Determine the root cause and consider all solution options
- Implement the solution and make sure it sticks
- Set aggressive targets for yourself and achieve them
- Make data-driven <u>decisions</u>
- Be a leader, not a "status-er"
- Be a simplifier, not a complicator → know when to focus
- Communicate openly (up, down, left, and right) and ask for help before the situation is irresolvable (no surprises)
- Demonstrate Versatility, Flexibility, and Agility (if business changes, you adapt)
- Demonstrate Core Values
- Remember that the customer is always right\*\*

#### And.....



# Be FAST to Customer Solutions



# The results...



## ... technology driven products enabling Moore's Law.



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# FAST to Customer Solutions



# Lam Research at a Glance

- Major supplier of wafer fab equipment and services
  - Headquartered in Fremont, California, with facilities in Asia, Europe, and North America
  - ~3,850 Employees worldwide
  - Revenue of \$2.8B in CY 2011
- Etch and Clean product lines offer leading technologies for performance and extendibility
  - Conductor, dielectric, MEMS, deep silicon, and through-silicon via (TSV) etch
  - Wet and plasma-based single-wafer clean
- Customer Support Business Group (CSBG) dedicated to optimizing installed equipment performance and operational efficiency





# Lam Research: Mission, Vision, and Core Values

#### **Mission:**

Lam Research is dedicated to the success of our customers by being a world-class provider of innovative productivity solutions to the semiconductor industry.

#### **Vision Objectives:**

- #1 in customer trust
- #1 in market share
- A company where successful people want to work
- A multi-product company
- Financial performance appropriate to:
  - Support the productivity solutions our customers require
  - What our shareholders expect

#### **Core Values:**

- Achievement
- Ownership and accountability
- Mutual trust and respect
- Honesty and integrity
- Innovation and continuous improvement
- Open communication
- Teamwork
- Think: customer, company, individual



# Lam Research Product & Technology Milestones





# Lam Research – Where Successful People Want to Work

#### Company

# Advancing semiconductor manufacturing for more than 30 years

- Market share leader
- Financially sound
- Operations excellence
- Open and collaborative environment that fosters innovation

#### Leadership

Experienced management team with proven record of success

- Lam's senior management recognized among the best leaders in the industry
- Technology experts in Etch and Clean
- Local management in each region

#### Employees

# Experienced, talented, and dedicated global workforce

- Multi-cultural and diverse
- Actively demonstrate Lam's Core Values
- Cross-functional teams work in collaborative environment
- 75% of promotions from within the Company

#### Community

Extension of the Company's Core Values into our employees' communities

- Lam Research Foundation grants
- Core Values Scholarship program
- Employee gift/volunteer time matching
- Food drive, toy drive, blood drives, and other outreach activities



# Lam Research Is #1 in Etch Shipped Market Share



#### Lam Research surpassed 50% market share in 2010

Source: Lam Research Corp.



# FAST to Customer Solutions

