

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## VLSI RESEARCH INC

### 2008 VLSI Research Inc 10 BEST Awards for Test Equipment, Material Handling Equipment, and Assembly Equipment

**Inovys, SUSS MicroTec, and Orthodyne achieve highest rankings**

Santa Clara, CA - June 16, 2008: VLSI Research Inc, the leading public source for customer feedback on semiconductor equipment, has announced the winners of the 2008 10 BEST Awards for Test Equipment, Material Handling Equipment, and Assembly Equipment.

Customers rated Inovys Corporation, SUSS MicroTec, and Orthodyne Electronics as the #1 supplier in each of their respective categories. All three companies retained the #1 rank from 2007 while achieving overall ratings above 8.0. This demonstrated their commitment to excel in their markets.

The results are based on 4,565 surveys collected from chip makers that represent more than 95% of worldwide chip production. Each equipment supplier was rated on thirteen different categories which encompass both equipment performance as well as customer service. Listed below are the 10 BEST winners.



<b>2008 10 BEST TEST EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Overall Rating<sup>†</sup></b>
1	Inovys Corporation	8.15
2	Advantest Corporation	7.50
3	LTX Corporation	7.46
4	Eagle Test Systems, Inc.	7.39
5	Nextest Systems Corporation	7.35
6	Teradyne, Inc.	7.34
7	Credence Systems Corporation	7.31
8	SPEA	7.29
9	FEI Company	7.10
10	Verigy	6.90

<b>2008 10 BEST MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Overall Rating<sup>†</sup></b>
1	SUSS MicroTec	8.19
2	Advantest Corporation	7.75
3	ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	7.63
4	Rasco GmbH	7.54
5	Tokyo Electron Limited	7.36
6	Multitest Elektronische Sys. GmbH	7.11
7	Delta Design	7.06
8	Cascade Microtech, Inc.	6.87
9	Electroglas, Inc.	6.60
10	<i>There were no Qualifiers for the Tenth Position</i>	

<b>2008 10 BEST ASSEMBLY EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Overall Rating<sup>†</sup></b>
1	Orthodyne Electronics	8.08
2	F & K Delvotec Bondtechnik GmbH	7.86
3	ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	7.84
4	Asymtek	7.74
5	Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc.	7.64
6	Renesas Eastern Japan Semi., Inc.	7.57
7	DISCO Corporation	7.57
8	Shinkawa Ltd.	7.48
9	ASM International N.V.	7.44
10	ICOS Vision Systems NV	7.43

Source: VLSI Research Inc

## Test Equipment Suppliers

Within the Test Equipment Suppliers category, perennial 10 BEST contenders Inovys and Advantest were first and second, respectively. Inovys received the highest rating in seven of the thirteen categories, with its best rating in *equipment uptime*. Although Advantest and LTX didn't achieve the best rating in any of the thirteen categories, their overall ratings placed them second and third, respectively. Eagle Test Systems achieved the best scores in *field engineering* and *spares support*. Teradyne topped the *product performance* category, while FEI Company was rated best in *usable throughput*, *quality of results*, and *technical leadership*.

The highest average ratings were in *quality of results*, *uptime*, and *usable throughput*, which are components of the equipment performance criteria. *Cost of ownership*, *software*, and *process support* were areas that customers indicated a need for improvements. *Build quality* improved the most rising 0.34 average points to 7.60. *Support after sales* declined the greatest, from 7.48 to 7.34.

Manufacturer	Overall Rating	Equipment Performance							Customer Service					
		C.O.O.	Uptime	Software	Build Quality	Usable Throughput	Quality of Rslts	Product Performance	Process Support	Field Engineering	Spares Support	Support After Sales	Technical Leadership	Commitment
Inovys Corporation	8.15	8.67	8.86	8.10	8.14	7.50	8.10	7.71	7.89	7.57	7.48	8.71	8.19	8.71
Advantest	7.50	6.61	8.29	6.93	7.95	7.88	8.12	7.70	7.40	7.48	7.35	7.37	8.04	7.66
LTX Corporation	7.46	7.64	7.51	7.07	7.47	7.71	7.71	7.53	7.34	7.73	7.26	7.73	7.21	7.50
Eagle Test Systems	7.39	7.08	7.48	7.18	7.53	7.67	7.53	7.12	6.82	8.08	7.68	7.32	7.26	6.82
Nextest Systems Corp.	7.35	7.27	7.97	7.17	7.13	7.80	7.83	7.60	7.10	6.80	7.50	6.70	7.00	7.25
Teradyne, Inc.	7.34	6.46	7.53	7.42	7.46	7.75	7.77	7.87	7.10	7.00	7.21	7.04	7.51	7.11
Credence Systems	7.31	6.96	7.52	7.04	7.38	7.50	7.81	7.38	7.05	7.47	7.11	7.16	7.23	7.32
SPEA	7.29	7.13	7.71	6.38	7.42	7.21	7.42	6.92	7.58	6.92	7.46	7.88	7.08	7.71
FEI Company	7.10	4.75	7.00	7.25	8.00	8.25	9.25	7.75	6.00	6.25	6.25	6.75	8.25	6.50
Verigy	6.90	5.74	7.58	5.66	7.57	7.41	7.66	7.76	6.76	6.37	6.76	6.73	7.53	6.79
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>7.38</b>	<b>6.83</b>	<b>7.74</b>	<b>7.02</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>7.67</b>	<b>7.92</b>	<b>7.53</b>	<b>7.10</b>	<b>7.17</b>	<b>7.21</b>	<b>7.34</b>	<b>7.53</b>	<b>7.34</b>

Source: VLSI Research Inc

## Material Handling Equipment Suppliers

Among the 10 BEST Material Handling Equipment Suppliers, SUSS MicroTec retained the highest overall rating. It also achieved the best score in seven of the thirteen categories including *cost of ownership*, *uptime*, *build quality*, *usable throughput*, *quality of results*, *product performance*, and *commitment*. Advantest garnered the top rating in five categories including *software*, *process support*, *field engineering*, *spares support*, and *support after sales*. Rasco rounded out the fourth spot, excelling in *technical leadership*.

Overall, seven companies received their highest rating in an equipment performance category. *Quality of results* was the highest praised category followed by *uptime* and *build quality*. Much like Test Equipment results, customers indicated that *cost of ownership*, *software*, and *process support* were areas with room for improvement. The most improved category was *field engineering*, with a 0.35 point increase. In contrast, *usable throughput* fell to 7.54 from 7.99 in the prior year.

Manufacturer	Overall Rating	Equipment Performance							Customer Service					
		C.O.O.	Uptime	Software	Build Quality	Usable Throughput	Quality of Rslts	Product Performance	Process Support	Field Engineering	Spares Support	Support After Sales	Technical Leadership	Commitment
SUSS MicroTec	8.19	7.37	8.62	7.26	8.71	8.36	8.72	8.53	7.84	7.88	8.12	8.02	8.13	8.71
Advantest	7.75	5.44	8.26	7.82	8.62	7.88	8.54	7.62	8.02	8.48	8.14	8.04	6.40	7.46
ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	7.63	7.30	8.20	6.83	7.92	7.84	7.81	8.09	7.08	7.66	7.78	7.51	7.69	7.38
Rasco GmbH	7.54	6.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.00	7.00	7.50	7.25	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.25	8.00
Tokyo Electron Limited	7.36	6.21	7.42	6.86	7.83	7.92	7.70	7.75	7.14	7.53	7.66	7.38	7.56	7.52
Multitest Elektronische	7.11	6.26	7.06	6.39	7.18	7.24	7.16	7.07	7.27	7.57	6.71	7.08	8.09	7.30
Delta Design	7.06	6.92	6.92	7.10	6.92	7.25	7.40	7.50	6.80	7.25	6.75	6.70	7.40	7.10
Cascade Microtech	6.87	6.35	7.70	6.67	6.75	7.22	8.00	7.44	6.00	6.10	7.00	6.22	7.88	6.33
Electroglas, Inc.	6.60	6.32	7.21	6.38	7.26	7.17	7.21	6.92	6.18	6.39	6.82	6.27	5.65	6.05
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>7.35</b>	<b>6.52</b>	<b>7.65</b>	<b>6.98</b>	<b>7.63</b>	<b>7.54</b>	<b>7.73</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>7.06</b>	<b>7.43</b>	<b>7.44</b>	<b>7.25</b>	<b>7.45</b>	<b>7.32</b>

Source: VLSI Research Inc

## Assembly Equipment Suppliers

Among the 10 BEST Assembly Equipment Suppliers, Orthodyne maintained the top spot with highlights in *quality of results, product performance, and spares support*. F&K Delvotec captured the second rank with the peak scores in *process support, field engineering, and commitment*. ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu shined in *support after sales*, capturing the third overall rating. Asymtek topped their peers in *cost of ownership (C.O.O.)*. Renesas Eastern Japan performed well in equipment performance and captured the highest ratings in *software, build quality, and usable throughput*. ICOS Vision obtained top rank in *uptime and technical leadership*.

In this very competitive market segment, the spread between first and tenth was only 0.41 points. Six suppliers captured the highest rating in at least one of the thirteen categories. The largest change was a decline of 0.38 average points in *spares support*. *Process support* showed the greatest improvement, with a 0.18 point increase.

Manufacturer	Overall Rating	Equipment Performance							Customer Service					
		C.O.O.	Uptime	Software	Build Quality	Usable Throughput	Quality of Rslts	Product Performance	Process Support	Field Engineering	Spares Support	Support After Sales	Technical Leadership	Commitment
Orthodyne Electronics	8.08	7.51	8.39	7.41	8.47	8.25	8.40	8.35	7.77	7.98	7.78	7.92	8.24	8.22
F & K Delvotec Bondtechnik GmbH	7.86	7.60	7.73	7.07	8.08	7.72	8.17	7.80	7.88	8.10	7.70	8.08	7.92	8.28
ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu	7.84	7.24	8.00	7.00	7.83	7.91	7.86	7.82	7.46	8.09	7.70	8.22	7.86	8.23
Asymtek	7.74	8.00	8.20	7.40	7.80	8.40	8.20	8.20	7.40	7.40	7.00	7.60	7.80	7.20
Kulicke & Soffa	7.64	6.81	7.84	7.30	7.66	8.15	8.01	8.21	7.62	7.68	7.00	7.50	8.01	8.01
Renesas Eastern Japan	7.57	6.13	8.33	7.79	8.54	8.58	8.25	8.25	7.67	7.21	6.29	6.63	7.17	7.54
DISCO Corp.	7.57	6.73	8.04	6.90	8.00	7.94	8.16	7.90	7.33	7.25	7.21	7.42	7.64	7.84
Shinkawa Ltd.	7.48	7.55	7.87	6.99	7.33	7.86	7.90	7.72	7.51	7.49	7.11	7.68	7.03	7.54
ASM International	7.44	7.57	7.52	7.16	6.81	7.85	7.50	7.41	7.56	7.75	7.27	7.72	7.31	7.56
ICOS Vision Systems	7.43	6.75	8.75	6.50	7.63	7.38	7.75	7.75	7.13	7.75	7.25	6.88	8.25	6.75
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>7.67</b>	<b>7.19</b>	<b>8.07</b>	<b>7.15</b>	<b>7.82</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>8.02</b>	<b>7.94</b>	<b>7.53</b>	<b>7.67</b>	<b>7.23</b>	<b>7.56</b>	<b>7.72</b>	<b>7.72</b>

Source: VLSI Research Inc

This is the second announcement in a series of three press releases listing the 10 BEST companies in each competitive segment. The next release will announce the two Overall 10 BEST segments: Focused Suppliers and Large Suppliers of Chip Making Equipment.

Last year's 10 BEST lists for Test Equipment, Material Handling Equipment, and Assembly Equipment suppliers are shown below for reference. Prior years' lists can be found at [www.vlsiresearch.com](http://www.vlsiresearch.com) in the Reference section under Press Releases for the Customer Satisfaction Survey.

2007 10 BEST TEST EQUIPMENT		
Rank	Company	Overall Rating <sup>†</sup>
1	Inovys Corporation	7.98
2	Nextest Systems Corporation	7.90
3	Advantest Corporation	7.49
4	LTX Corporation	7.48
5	Teradyne, Inc.	7.28
6	Verigy	6.94
7	Credence Systems Corporation	6.92
8	Yokogawa Electric Corporation	6.85
9	Eagle Test Systems, Inc.	6.78
10	FEI Company	6.71

<b>2007 10 BEST MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Overall Rating<sup>†</sup></b>
1	SUSS MicroTec	7.97
2	Cascade Microtech, Inc.	7.63
3	ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu Co., Ltd	7.63
4	Advantest Corporation	7.48
5	Seiko Epson Corporation	7.42
6	Rasco GmbH	7.29
7	Tokyo Electron Limited	7.21
8	Multitest Elektronische Sys. GmbH	7.18
9	Electroglas, Inc.	7.13
10	TESEC Corporation	6.79

<b>2007 10 BEST ASSEMBLY EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Overall Rating<sup>†</sup></b>
1	Orthodyne Electronics	8.36
2	Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc.	8.02
3	ACCRETECH-Tokyo Seimitsu Co., Ltd	7.95
4	HANMI Semiconductor	7.93
5	ICOS Vision Systems	7.93
6	Advanced Dicing Technologies	7.76
7	Dage Precision Industries Ltd	7.73
8	Asymtek	7.72
9	BE Semiconductor Industries N.V.	7.68
10	ASM International N.V.	7.63

Source: VLSI Research Inc

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

The VLSI Research annual *Customer Satisfaction Survey on Chip Making Equipment* is the only publicly available opportunity for chip manufacturers to provide feedback on their suppliers. The 10 BEST rankings award special recognition to the suppliers that are rated highest by their customers.

The survey asks users of chip making equipment to rate their suppliers on a ten-point scale among thirteen categories that exemplify a supplier's relationship with its customers. These thirteen categories include seven measures of equipment performance and six measures of customer service. *Cost of ownership, uptime, software, build quality, usable throughput, quality of results achieved, and product performance* are the equipment performance measures. Customer service measures include *process support, field engineering support, spares support, support after sales, technical leadership in the supplier's field, and the supplier's overall commitment to supporting its customers' needs*.

VLSI Research Inc conducts these surveys across sixty major equipment market segments and compiles competitive positioning reports for each segment. These sixty categories are grouped into the six major market categories of wafer processing equipment (small and large companies), test equipment, material handling equipment, process diagnostics equipment, and assembly equipment.

The statistics were drawn from a distribution of 66,717 questionnaires sent worldwide by mail, email, and fax in six languages: English, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, German, and French. Virtually every chipmaker was given a chance to respond.

Respondents returned surveys rating 4,565 equipment models. The companies that responded to VLSI Research's customer satisfaction survey represent 95% of worldwide chip production. When calculating each of the thirteen separate categories previously mentioned, total responses comprised about 59,300 individual ratings across the categories, each on a scale of 1 through 10.

There are two parts to the 10 BEST methodology. The first part is that the qualification rule for the 10 BEST Awards is based on the *Respondents' Share of Market* statistic. This statistic is the sum of share of market held by unique companies responding to the survey for each specific equipment supplier and equipment type.

The second part of the 10 BEST methodology is the calculation of the 10 BEST ranking itself. The rankings are based on the **equally weighted average** rather than the straight average. This rating is weighted equally for each unique responding company (not individual survey response). Hence, each surveyed company only gets "one vote", based on the average of the individuals from that company

responding to the survey. This rating method has the advantage that no single customer/company can stuff the ballot box, giving a much more meaningful picture for potential effects on market share.

***SURVEY STATISTICS***

<b>Percent of Chip Market Represented:</b>	<b>95%</b>
Surveys Distributed:	66,717
Equipment Models Rated:	4,565
From North America:	28.8%
From Europe:	20.8%
From China:	11.9%
From Korea:	10.0%
From Taiwan:	9.5%
From Japan:	9.0%
From Other:	10.0%

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† In cases where a tie has occurred, the ranking position is determined by a single-sided 97.5% confidence margin.

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