



## KINESYS ENHANCES LEADING NON- PROPRIETARY WAFERMAPPING/ EQUIPMENT INTEGRATION SOFTWARE FOR INKLESS ASSEMBLY

*ALPS LT AND NT 2.50 ENABLE  
MANUFACTURERS AND  
SUBCONTRACTORS TO INCREASE  
REVENUE BY ENHANCING YIELD,  
BOOSTING EMPLOYEE PRODUCTIVITY*

PETALUMA, Calif., May 20, 2002 – KINESYS Software, Inc., a leading provider of software for the automation of semiconductor manufacturing processes, today announced that new versions of ALPS LT and ALPS NT -- 2.50 -- are available for immediate shipment.

First introduced in 1995, ALPS is the industry's leading software for wafer map data management and equipment integration in the inkless assembly of semiconductors.

Although there is now a standard for wafer map format (SEMI G85), it has only recently been approved and will take time before it is widely adopted. As a result, virtually every prober/tester combination currently provides a different wafer map output. Mapping software provided in a capital equipment package is proprietary since it works only with that equipment.

ALPS is unique in accepting any wafer map format, working with any SECS II-capable equipment and supporting all production steps from wafer sort to die attach. In addition, ALPS can be integrated with existing proprietary or commercial manufacturing execution systems (MES). ALPS provides human users (equipment operators, production planners, etc.) with the visibility and control they need to streamline the production process.

With inkless assembly growing steadily in the industry, it is not surprising that ALPS is used today by the bulk of prominent manufacturers (Philips, ST Microelectronics, to name a few) and subcontractors (Amkor, Alphatec, OSE, to name a few) worldwide.

There are three members in the ALPS family - PC, LT and NT. All perform the crucial process of automatically matching wafers to their maps upon receipt at assembly from probe and notifying appropriate personnel if a map is missing or contains an error. ALPS also identifies product that is not qualified for production through the inkless line and, again, notifies appropriate personnel of the steps to take to resolve the situation.

ALPS LT is designed for use in medium-sized installations with up to 16 users/equipment per database (per site). ALPS NT is intended for larger assembly plants with 150+ users/equipment per database. The new 2.50 version of these applications is evidence of KINESYS' commitment to continuously enhancing ALPS in response to customer needs. ALPS 2.50 contains significant new functionality that will help manufacturers and subcontractors to increase revenue by enhancing yield and boosting employee productivity. Wafer Splitting tops the list that also includes Bin Code Translation and Wafer Photograph in Product Setup

"Once demand for semiconductors picks up, the new 300mm factories are expected to reduce cost per device by as much as 40 percent versus 200mm lines," said Dave Huntley, president, KINESYS Software. "But those 300mm facilities require huge capital investment. In these uncertain times, no one knows when the upturn in demand will come. During this transition, manufacturers will be under intense pressure to extract maximum value from their 200mm machines.

"ALPS 2.50 helps factory managers squeeze out that value," Huntley continued. "The new capabilities such as Wafer Splitting and Bin Code Translation can improve the performance of both the operator and the process, improving reliability and reducing cycle time for the production process, thereby realizing cost savings that directly benefit our customers' bottom line."

### *New Features*

The most notable enhancement in ALPS 2.50, wafer splitting, allows a wafer map to be broken along horizontal or vertical cut lines or freehand by the operator to match the physical dimensions of a partial or broken wafer. One application of this feature is to process 300mm wafers on 200mm equipment, thereby extracting maximum value from existing capital equipment before it is retired. Wafer splitting also improves broken wafer processing, increasing yields and reducing revenue losses. Wafer breakage is becoming more common with the advent of backgrinding the wafer for new-generation ultra-slim electronic devices.

If a process is interrupted when a wafer has been partially picked, ALPS 2.50 offers the operator the option to save the partially picked map. This has a significant impact on the recovery time when the process is resumed.

As well as providing improvements to the fabrication process, ALPS 2.50 has several new features that improve the performance of human operators. Because Bin Code Translation can be defined once in ALPS for each product, operators are relieved from the task of specifying the bins to process on the equipment, thus reducing the risk of mis-processing. Wafer Photograph in Product Setup simplifies reference data alignment. The resulting reduction in equipment set-up time and costly operator errors can produce a marked improvement in overall factory yield and performance levels.

Additional refinements of ALPS 2.50 include support for Windows 2000 platforms, improved Windows security management, overall advancement in screen layout and navigation, and enhanced problem analysis tools.

ALPS 2.50 is available at no cost for customers that have an ALPS LT or NT License and a Maintenance Agreement for that license. New software is available from local distributors or directly from KINESYS Software.

### *About KINESYS Software, Inc.*

Founded in 1992, KINESYS Software is a privately held company based in Utrecht, The Netherlands and has a United States office in Petaluma, CA. The company is focused on the automation of semiconductor manufacturing back-end processes. In particular, it offers innovative software products and expert support services for inkless data management and equipment integration. For more information on the company, visit the Web site, [www.kinesysinc.com](http://www.kinesysinc.com), or call Henk Barreveld in the Netherlands at +31 (30) 233 2331, or Dave Huntley in the US office +1 (707) 766-8855.

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