



KINESYS ANNOUNCES LATEST VERSION OF ASSEMBLY LINE PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR (ALPS) SOFTWARE FOR BACK-END PROCESS AUTOMATION

MANUFACTURING EXECUTION SYSTEMS (MES) INTERFACE ENABLES NEW LEVEL OF EQUIPMENT CONTROL

SEMICON West, San Jose, Calif., July 17, 2002 – KINESYS Software, Inc., a leading provider of software for the automation of semiconductor manufacturing processes, today announced that ALPS (Assembly Line Production Supervisor) 2.6 is 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. ALPS 2.6 is being displayed at the opening portion of SEMICON West devoted to the "back end" of the semiconductor manufacturing process by a KINESYS partner – Universal Instruments Corporation. It can be seen at the Universal booth (#11627) in McEnergy Hall at the San Jose Convention Center July 17-19.

ALPS 2.6 integrates with factory and machine control systems, thus opening the door to advanced automation solutions for the test, automation and packaging (TAP) steps of the "back end" of the semiconductor

manufacturing process. Improvements have been made to all the members of the ALPS family – the entry-level ALPS EL, the mid-range ALPS LT and the high-end ALPS NT. As a product family, ALPS is scalable from a single-machine R&D line all the way up to the world's largest manufacturers and sub-contractors.

One key feature added to ALPS in Version 2.6 is a SECS/GEM message router. The SECS/GEM equipment-to-factory interface is inherently a point-to-point protocol. This presents a bottleneck when several manufacturing execution system (MES) applications try to access the equipment. ALPS 2.6 allows pre-existing, or planned, SECS/GEM-compliant MES applications to share the equipment interface with ALPS, without modification.

Other new features in ALPS 2.6 include:

- ❑ Enlarged wafer map display
- ❑ "Auto Save Map" functionality safeguards data when communication is lost between equipment and ALPS

In Version 2.6, KINESYS has continued the support of the wafer format standard – SEMI G85. Support for the standard was first engineered into ALPS in Version 2.5, introduced by KINESYS in the second quarter of this year.

SEMI G85 was approved in late 2001. It will take some time for the standard to become widely adopted. In addition to supporting this standard, ALPS is unique among wafer mapping software in that it accepts any wafer map format, works with any SECS II-capable equipment and supports all production steps from wafer sort to die attach. It can be integrated with existing proprietary or commercial MES and provides human users (equipment operators, production planners, etc.) with the visibility and control they need to streamline the production process. Streamlining the production process includes enhancing its reliability, which has a positive impact on the bottom line of the manufacturer or subcontractor.

Some equipment vendors offer wafer mapping software but these are proprietary, since they apply only to a specific prober/tester/die bonder combination.

Each of the members of the ALPS family performs the critical 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.

With inkless assembly continuing to proliferate, it is not surprising that ALPS is used today by the bulk of prominent manufacturers and subcontractors (Amkor, Alphatec, OSE, STATS for example) worldwide. Significant improvements incorporated into ALPS 2.6 derive from separate projects involving [Universal Instruments](#), a leading provider of business productivity solutions to electronics manufactures, and another large IC manufacturer.

"ALPS 2.6 allows us to integrate wafer map processing with Universal's other data management offerings. As flip chip matures in the industry, assemblers need high-volume equipment solutions, that handle wafer processing in a reliable and effective way. Universal's new 300mm wafer feeder solution, coupled with ALPS 2.6, promises to do just that." said Jacques Coderre, Universal Instruments's Advanced Semiconductor Assembly Product Manager.

"ALPS until now has been perceived more as a factory automation software. But the "embedded" capability of Version 2.6 underlines its usefulness as a tool that equipment buyers can add to meet machine control and wafer mapping requirements simultaneously," said Dave Huntley, president, KINESYS Software. "In the 1990s, the focus in the semiconductor industry was on automating the front end. In the new decade, the focus is on automating the back end. And manufacturers and subcontractors that plan to deploy new factory automation solutions for use in 300mm production can depend on ALPS 2.6, with its new MES interface, to work seamlessly with those systems."

ALPS 2.6 is available at no cost for customers that have an ALPS EL, LT or NT license and a maintenance agreement for that license. The

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, 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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