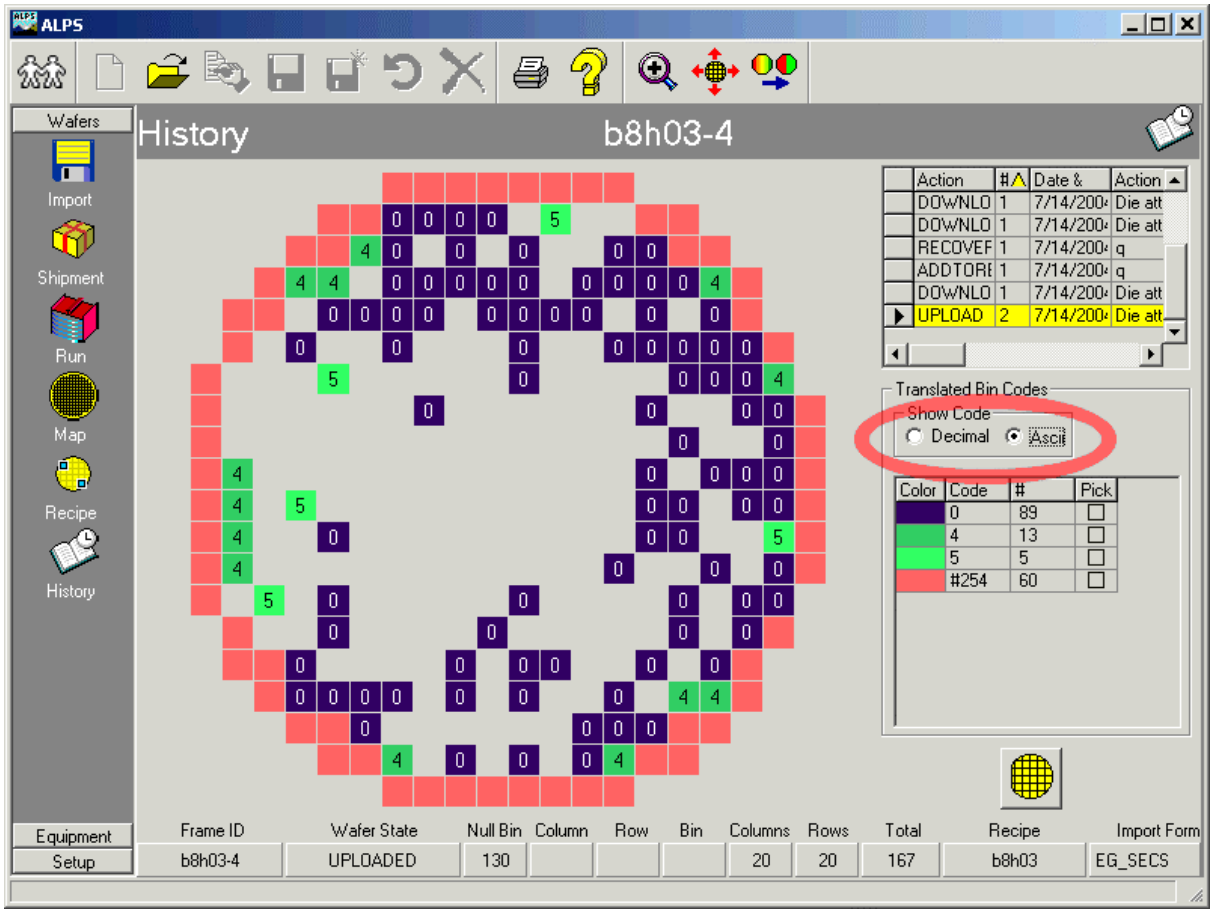
ALPS EL/LT 2.82 Release Bulletin

General

- On all screens showing wafer maps you can now chose whether you want to see the bin codes as numeric or as ascii values. The selection applies both to the bin codes displayed in the wafer map and to the bin code list.

  Here is an example (similar for Run, Map, Recipe and Die Pick screens):



July 13, 2004

- The list of Windows versions on which ALPS can be used, has been extended with
  - Windows XP (Professional or Home edition)
  - Windows Server 2003

  Exact requirements for these systems are specified in the Installation Guide.
- The ALPS installation procedure has been simplified. It is no longer necessary to configure the DCOM settings "manually"; the installation program now makes these settings automatically.
- The Database Upgrade facility you can use when upgrading from an earlier version of ALPS, has been extended to include all (sub-)versions starting with 2.80. ALPS finds out automatically which of the database changes between 2.80 and 2.82 still need to be done and which are already present.
- The procedure to install a new license file has been simplified considerably. As a consequence it is no longer necessary to stop all ALPS activities on the ALPS Server and all ALPS Clients when exchanging the license file.

  In particular for somewhat larger ALPS systems this change considerably reduces the amount of work and the equipment downtime.
- The list of ALPS EL Options has been extended with a fifth one: Recipe Management. The additional features offered by this Option, correspond with the ALPS LT Recipe Management facility.

  The complete list of ALPS EL Options is now as follows:
  - Lot Management Option
  - Wafer Map Editing Option
  - Wafer Map History Option
  - Automatic Import Option
  - Recipe Management Option
- A problem in the License Tester has been solved, causing it not to work if there is a problem with the Export dongle.
- The support of USB dongles, instead of parallel port dongles, has been completed. Both for license management and for Export, ALPS can now work with USB dongles. This is what they look like:

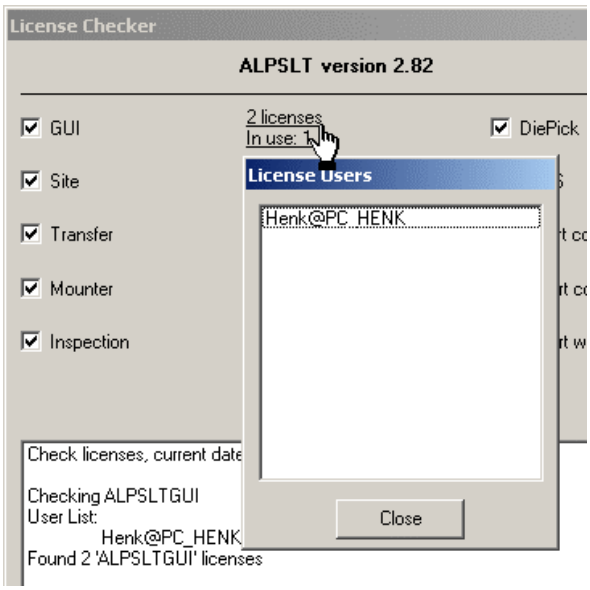
(size approximately 50 x 15 mm)

- The ALPS file engine (used, for instance, to access files for wafer map importing and to write logfiles) has been extended to support certain old operating systems that have special requirements regarding the use of the Internet file transfer protocol (FTP). As a consequence it is now required to specify slashes ("/"), if

applicable, at the begin and the end of any ftp path. In the past, ALPS would automatically add such slashes when missing.

(This change was also included in the ALPS 2.81.002 update.)

- The function of the License Tester has been extended. For so-called counted feature licenses it it now shows
  - how many are installed
  - how many are being used,
  - who are using them (computer name and Windows user):



- A change was made to support applications, in which wafer maps are exported by ALPS to some external, equipment-specific format, after which the maps are changed by the equipment and then imported again in ALPS for further processing.

  This change affects the handling of the wafer state by ALPS. For wafers with wafer state EXPORTED it is now allowed to import the wafer map again. The import will result in a new version of the wafer map being stored and the wafer state changing to MAP IMPORTED.

  (This change was also included in the ALPS 2.81.002 update.)

- A change was made to support ALPS being used to change wafer maps, after which the wafer maps are exported to the original format, to be processed outside ALPS control.

  The update allows on systems having an Export License to export wafer maps without the Export License budget being reduced, PROVIDED THAT the export format is the same as the original format in which the wafer maps were imported.

  (This change was also included in the ALPS 2.81.002 update.)

Run Screen

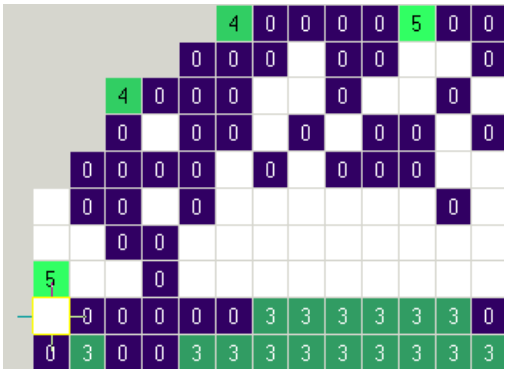
- Fixed a bug, causing an error message to appear when running with a screen size of 800x600 pixels:

  `ShowBins: Invalid property value`

Die Pick Screen

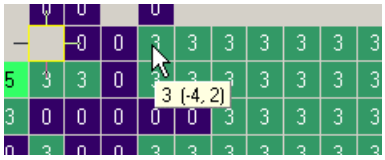
- Support for new equipment types has been added:
  - Muehlbauer (DC Series, FCM Series)
  - Shibaura (TFC Series) (already included in the ALPS 2.81.001 update)
- The Alphasem SL9020 driver has been adapted to support all SEMI standard wafer map coordinate systems, as chosen on/by the die picker.

  (This change was also included in the ALPS 2.81.002 update.)
- A problem with the F&K Delvotec driver was solved, making the driver unuseable in ALPS 2.81
- The realtime display removes picked dies from the wafer map displayed. Alternatively, you can now also chose that picked dies are shown as white.



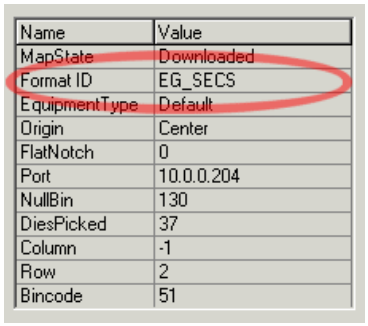
  This makes it easier to distinguish between empty die locations that were already empty from the start, and locations of dies that have actually been picked.

  Picked dies are only shown on the Die Pick screen, and reflect changes to the wafer map since the last time it was downloaded to the die pick equipment.
- The die coordinates shown in the "tooltip", when placing the cursor on the wafer map display, have been improved.



In earlier ALPS versions the coordinates were shown with a fixed coordinate system: origin at the wafer centre. Now the coordinates are shown, using the coordinate system of the applicable die pick machine.

- The Format of the original wafer map has been added to the list of parameters:



Name	Value
MapState	Downloaded
Format ID	EG_SECS
EquipmentType	Default
Origin	Center
FlatNotch	0
Port	10.0.0.204
NullBin	130
DiesPicked	37
Column	-1
Row	2
Bincode	51

- In earlier ALPS versions, reference dies were only sent to equipment if they were specified in an ALPS Recipe that was assigned to the wafer map to be downloaded. This has now been extended: When reference dies are specified in the original wafer maps, that information is included by the converter when importing the wafer map and when no recipe has been assigned; the reference dies from the original wafer map are sent to the equipment.

  Before sending the reference dies, they are re-calculated by ALPS to reflect the coordinate system used by the equipment.

  If an ALPS recipe is assigned to the wafer map while the original wafer map specifies reference dies, then the reference die definition in the recipe is used instead of the information from the original wafer map.

- A change was made to the internal routing of equipment communication, in case a MES interface is being used. As a consequence it is no longer necessary for die pick equipment to duplicate the Collection Events for die picking, so that both ALPS and the MES receive these events.

Format Screen

- An incorrect setting of the pre-installed SEMI G85 converter has been removed. This setting caused ALPS Sort to produce error messages:

  "Failed to checkout license ALPSxxExportConverter" (xx being EL or LT)

  (This change was also included in the ALPS 2.81.001 update.)

Purge, Sort and Notify

- The ALPS background programs ALPSSort and ALPSPurge have been changed to improve their robustness. On certain ALPS systems, these programs sometimes stopped working after some time (days or weeks). This not only affected the automatic wafer map import and database cleanup processes, it also made it impossible to use the Import screen. Recovering from such program hangs

required restarting of the ALPS Server computer, causing production disturbance and equipment downtime.

Robustness improvements have been made to these background programs, and also to the e-mail notification background program, to prevent such system hangs to occur.

(These changes were also included in the ALPS 2.81.003 update.)

- The operation of ALPS Sort has been optimized. As long as the user information remains the same, Sort no longer reconnects each time to remote shared folders. Instead Sort uses the same connection again.
- We solved a cause for "error 71" to occur in ALPS Sort when there is nothing to be done. In such cases the network connection was not released, causing problems after some time when the maximum number of connections has been reached.
- We solved a cause for "error 87" to occur in ALPS Sort when specifying a Windows domain for a username.

  (This change was also included in the ALPS 2.81.002 update.)
- A problem were solved, causing the ALPS GUI to block while a "Run Now" was being executed by ALPS Sort or ALPS Purge and, after completion of the run, until the completion messages was ackowledged.

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