

SOLARCON and SEMICON Singapore Show Cases the Latest Development in Semiconductor and PV Industries

May 20, 2009 — Singapore — With 123 companies' exhibit, SEMI kicked off its first SOLARCON Singapore by co-located with SEMICON Singapore 2009 today at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. The deputy managing director of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), the CEO of SSMC and the president of Applied Solar all attended the opening ceremony and were positive about the industries and green opportunities. In conjunction with SEMICON Singapore, SOLARCON Singapore will showcase products and technologies, and will present the market trend at the growing solar/photovoltaic (PV) market in Southeast Asia in the 3-day event.

Impacted by global economic recession, industry analysts are looking at about 20% decline for the device market this year. According to SEMI, the global semiconductor sales will be about US\$200 billion for 2009. However, the industry seems to bounce back in Q2 as the 3-month average shipments did improve in March for semiconductor shipments, increased 4.5% from February. Meanwhile, the monthly sales in April of top foundries and packaging subcons were up 41% compared with March.

With more than 60% of the world's spending on equipping frontend semiconductor fabs in Asia, there is an increasing shift of the centre of gravity of major equipment manufacturers to be closer to their Asian customers. According to EDB, In 2008(p), the semiconductor industry produced an output of S\$37.3b, accounting for 11% of the global semiconductor output.

"During the past few years, semiconductor industries have made the strategic investments in the main stream technology and the process needed to manufacture the same. The time has come now for the industries in Singapore and this region to see how they can produce more out of the installed base and even beyond the generic process into special / niche technologies. When the market turns around, such companies can be one step ahead of the rest of the competitors from the world positioning Southeast Asia as a strong semiconductor HUB," said Jagadish CV, Chief Executive Officer of Systems on Silicon Manufacturing Company Pte Ltd.

Despite economic uncertainties, Southeast Asia is positioning itself for the next growth cycle. Leading this effort is Singapore with its plans for manufacturing plants to serve both the semiconductor and the photovoltaic (PV) industries.

"Building on Singapore's strengths and experience in the semiconductor industry, we have identified clean energy as an area of growth. In the area of solar technology, Singapore is able to leverage on many of the commonalities in processing technology with semiconductor to provide high value-add and create meaningful jobs," said Manohar Khiatani, Deputy Managing Director during the opening ceremony.

"The demand for PV solar continues to grow and provide new market opportunities for cost-effective, large scale clean electric power, especially in Southeast Asia. Applied Materials has a significant presence in the region, including a research and development facility in Xi'an, China, that has enabled us to be a catalyst for delivering advanced technology and manufacturing solutions to drive down the price of solar," stated Charles Gay, President of Applied Solar, Applied