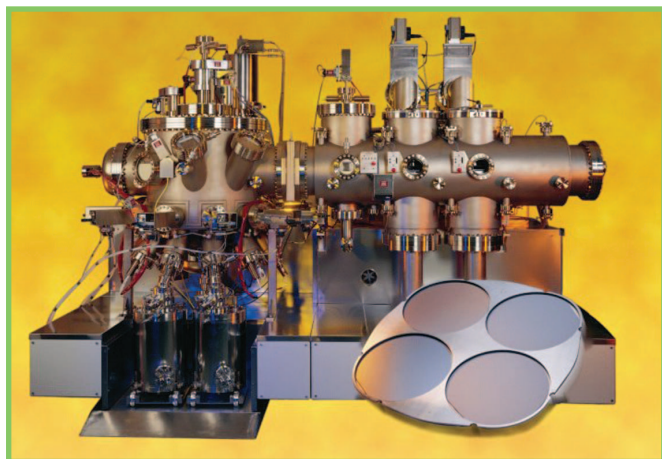
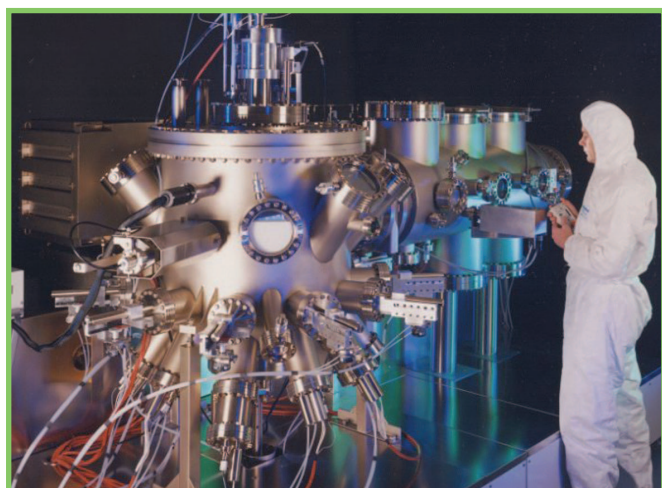


# Oxford Instruments Plasma Technology gets VG Semicon



VG Semicon's V100 system won the Queen's award for Industry, Innovation in 2001.



VG Semicon's V90 was the world's first automatic 4" MBE system.

After recent speculation, Oxford Instruments Plasma Technology, a wholly owned subsidiary of Oxford Instruments plc, confirms it has acquired the assets of MBE equipment manufacturer Thermo VG Semicon.

Oxford Instruments is paying a cash consideration of \$300,000 upon completion, plus a deferred consideration of \$200,000 payable in two equal instalments on the first and second anniversaries of completion. Further contingent payments may be made in 2005 and 2006, if exceptional sales growth targets are met, taking the maximum consideration to \$1.3m.

In the six months to 28 June 2003, VG Semicon reported sales of US\$4m and a break even operating result before restructuring costs. A cost-reduction programme at VG Semicon has already taken place earlier this year and the priority now is to increase the depth of management in the business and make appropriate use of the many complementa-

ry operational strengths in Oxford Instruments. The acquisition is expected to be earnings enhancing in the current financial year.

Dr. Jim Hutchins, Oxford Instruments Plasma Technology's newly appointed MD, said: "We are delighted with the acquisition of VG Semicon. We had previously identified MBE technology as an area that would offer an excellent strategic fit with our existing business. VG Semicon is also a recognised leader in its field and we believe we can achieve significant synergies in manufacturing, product development and sales and support operations, particularly since we already serve many of the same customers. We look forward to reaffirming its number one position in the market place."

Hutchins has been with the Oxford Instruments Group for 12 years, most recently as sales director of the high-tech, £40m turnover superconductivity business.

## Jazz adds 16th Akrypton & licenses foundry

Jazz Semiconductor will purchase an Akrypton advanced multimillion-dollar combination GAMA automated wet station for silicon germanium (SiGe) wafer production its facility in Newport Beach, Calif. The new tool joins 15 Akrypton automated wet tools currently in use at the plant.

The GAMA system is designed to provide both advanced front-end-of-line (AFeOL) cleaning and Akrypton's patent-pending,

low-temperature pre-epitaxy cleaning processes. Akrypton's proprietary process uses dilute chemical mixtures and its own ozone technology to provide a particulate- and chemical oxide-free surface.

"Akrypton prides itself on maintaining close relationships with our customers. Jazz is a long-time client, and we appreciate the repeat business. We intend to continue to work closely with them and do our part to

help them maintain their world-class status," commented Akrypton president, James S. Molinaro.

Jazz Semiconductor manufactures semiconductor wafers that enable the development of high-performance, low-power radio-frequency (RF) wireless and broadband wireline communications products. The company's analogue and RF integrated circuits (IC) manufacturing has evolved into a leadership position in SiGe BiCMOS and

silicon BiCMOS technologies and design tools.

Jazz has recently signed up Shanghai foundry, Hua Hong NEC, in a technology licensing agreement for 0.25-micron and 0.18-micron processes. HH NEC will begin prototyping 0.25-micron and 0.18-micron CMOS and SiGe BiCMOS devices using the Jazz processes by the end of 2004, and develop a 0.13-micron process with Jazz during 2005.