



**Wafer Probe Roadmap: Guidance for Wafer Probe R&D Resources
– 2002 Edition**

**International SEMATECH
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Abstract: This document from the Wafer Probe Benchmarking project (MFGM007) provides a wafer probe technology roadmap for 2002 through 2005. It is an update and expansion of Technology Transfer #96073155A TR, *SEMATECH Advanced Probe Technology (APT) Specification*. This roadmap document explains the data and direction of key wafer probing-related parameters compiled from data collected by the six probe project member companies from their internal roadmaps. The roadmap is organized into three sections: Product-Driven Requirements, Wafer Probe Technology Requirements (independent of product type), and Wafer Probe Operations Requirements (selection/procurement/use of probes). The appendix contains an excerpt from the 2001 *International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors* (ITRS) that summarizes complex and immediate challenges for wafer probing.

Keywords: Benchmarking, Electrical Test, Parametric Test, Probes

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International SEMATECH (ISMT) Wafer Probe Benchmarking project (MFGM007) was formed in March 2000 to target and drive improvements in wafer probe operations, specifically probe card technology and performance. The project objectives are to enable reliable and cost-effective probing during sort (wafer test).

A number of approaches facilitate accomplishing these objectives:

- Benchmark metrics
- Best-in-class identification
- Best practice sharing
- Site visits
- Networking
- Validation of industry roadmap directions
- Communication of consensus requirements to suppliers
- Sub teams/focus groups on specific topics of interest

1.1 Roadmap Objectives

An ISMT wafer probe roadmap, *SEMATECH Advanced Probe Technology (APT) Specification* (Technology Transfer #96073155A-TR), was published in 1996. See <http://www.sematech.org/public/docubase/abstracts/3155atr.htm>. This document updates and expands upon that specification.

This wafer probe roadmap document displays and explains the data and direction of key wafer probing-related parameters, as compiled from data collected by the six probe project member companies from their internal roadmaps. The aim is to better understand the challenges wafer probe professionals are facing and provide guidance for development and implementation of advanced wafer probing technologies, techniques, methods, and processes. This document is a kind of collective “requirements statement” on future wafer probing technology needs from leading semiconductor manufacturers.

1.2 ISMT Wafer Probe Benchmarking Project

In 2000, the custom-funded ISMT Wafer Probe Benchmarking project was formed. With its mission to provide industry guidance, in 2001, the project began updating the Wafer Probe Roadmap.

1.2.1 Industry Engagement

To kickoff the update, several representative wafer probe suppliers were asked for feedback on the 1996 roadmap document. This provided an opportunity to align the roadmaps for semiconductor manufacturers’ needs with suppliers’ solutions. A draft data collection template, illustrations, and glossary were developed and reviewed at an open meeting during the IEEE Southwest Test Workshop in June 2001. Over 50 people from the wafer probe community attended the meeting. Their collected comments shaped the final format and contents of the template.

1.2.2 Data Collection Template

Following the 2001 Southwest Test Workshop, the Probe Project members refined the data collection template, illustrations, and glossary. In September 2001, with the format finalized, data collection began.

1.3 Roadmap Data Sources and Rollup

Much of the raw data from which the tables/graphs in this document are derived come directly from the probe project member companies. Occasionally, excerpts from or reference to the *International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors* (ITRS) is included.

Each of the Wafer Probe Benchmarking member companies provided data reflecting their company's wafer probing requirements. Each member company entered their data using the data input template noted above. The compilation of the roadmap from each of the individual member company's data into a single rolled-up data point for each parameter was performed by the Probe Benchmarking team and facilitated by ISMT. The rollup algorithm was designed to capture the volume/mainstream production trend(s) of each parameter for each product category across all roadmap outlook years.

1.3.1 Leading-Edge vs. Volume Production

The tables in this document reflect volume/mainstream production data. To derive a leading-edge timing indicator from those tables, a guideline of 12–18 months before volume production is suggested. Note that references to the ITRS capture data reflecting the first year of production. Integrating the Wafer Probe Roadmap into future updates of the ITRS is being considered.

1.4 Roadmap Organization

The Wafer Probe Roadmap is organized into three sections:

- Product-Driven Requirements
- Wafer Probe Technology Requirements (independent of product type)
- Wafer Probe Operations Requirements (selection/procurement/use of probes)

In addition, Appendix A summarizes particularly complex and immediate challenges facing wafer probing. It was prepared by the probe project for the recently ITRS update and is included here for completeness.

Each of the three sections includes tables showing parameter trend data over the roadmap's time horizon that are explained in the text. Each of the semiconductor product family types (see Product Family Definitions) is included in the tables.

- Product-Driven Requirements captures product requirements that drive wafer-probing technology.
- Wafer Probe Technology Requirements identifies wafer probing specific needs that are independent of product drivers.
- Wafer Probe Operations Requirements addresses selecting, ordering, and using wafer-probing technologies.

1.5 Product Family Definitions

Five product families representing the products produced by the probe project member companies are used to segregate the data for each parameter, since the requirements for each family may differ. The five product families are as follows:

- Memory (DRAM)
- Microprocessor
- Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs)
- Radio Frequency (RF)
- Mixed Signal

Memory (DRAM) is the lowest cost and most popular type of semiconductor read/write memory chip; DRAM devices are volatile memories with single-transistor memory cells. Dynamic means the device's memory cells must be periodically refreshed. Information stored in the memory cells is accessed randomly. Static random access memory (SRAM) devices are excluded.

Microprocessor (MPU/CPU) devices contain the basic arithmetic, logic, and control elements for a computer to process data. "Microprocessor" refers to an integrated circuit that accepts coded instructions, executes the instructions, and delivers signals that describe its internal status. The most common usage is in multi-task computer systems such as PCs. Unlike microcontrollers, microprocessors contain no addressable ROM or RAM. MPUs are subdivided into 8-, 16-, or 32-bit. Similar terms are "processor" and "CPU."

Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASIC) devices are designed to suit a customer's particular requirements. The manufacturer assumes wafer design responsibility and may use gate array methodology, a standard cell approach, a unique circuit design, or any combination thereof. These ICs are manufactured using vendor-supplied tools and libraries and are marketed to a single customer. Also included are devices initiated by the manufacturer to fill a perceived need in a given market segment, which the manufacturer lists in catalogs and sells to any customer.

Radio Frequency (RF) refers to integrated circuits operating in the range of electromagnetic frequencies above the audio range and below the visible light. RF ICs are designed specifically for telecommunication, transmission, two-way and cellular radio, data communications, and other communication equipment. Standalone RF products are linear having 100% analog I/Os.

Mixed Signal devices have both digital and analog functions on the same chip, permitting a high degree of system integration. Mixed signal ICs contain analog in more than 50% of the chip area. Mixed signal products include data converter/switch/multiplexer ICs, interface ICs, telecom ICs, and disk drive ICs.

2 PRODUCT DRIVEN REQUIREMENTS FOR WAFER PROBING

2.1 Introduction

Many wafer technology specifications/requirements drive probe technology. Among these are pad/bump pitch, the number of I/Os on the device, metallurgical characteristics, device operating voltages and AC electrical performance. The 2001 edition ITRS is the suggested source to gather this information (see <http://public.itrs.net>).

In particular, the Executive Summary, Test and Test Equipment, and Assembly and Packaging sections are recommended. The following tables and accompanying text are of particular interest:

- Tables 3a, 4a and 6a in the Executive Summary
- The entire Test and Test Equipment, with a focus on tables 23a, 24a, 25a, 26a, 27a, 28 and 29a
- Tables 77 and 81 in Assembly and Packaging

As noted earlier, including the Wafer Probe Roadmap within future updates of the ITRS is being considered.

3 WAFER PROBE TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Introduction

This section explores the challenges of probe technologies independent of those driven by the devices being probed. These include the resulting behavior of the probe when/after contacting the wafer, the design of the probe card to realize the productivity benefits of probing multiple die at the same time, and the environment within which the probe card is expected to operate.

3.2 Interconnect Deformation

I/O density requirements are driving pad/bump sizes to ever smaller sizes (see Table 1). Though it is well known that on the leading edge, pad pitches are under 50 μm (with resulting pad sizes less than that), the current mainstream still has more “relaxed” pitches. Nonetheless, it is a formidable challenge for probe technologies to continually scale down when this scaling is accompanied by a parallel scaling-down of the permissible probe mark.

Using cantilever probes for probing wirebond technologies, though still a leading solution today, is reaching practical limits in pitch and scrub. Thus newer technologies, perhaps using “semiconductor-like” processes, will be needed.

The increasing application of area array solder bumps brings the commensurate need for vertical probing technologies. Though pitch reductions are foreseen, reductions may be delayed until second-level packaging constraints are resolved. As the pitch/bump dimensions get smaller, current vertical technologies, typically an array of guided wires, may also reach their practical limit, thus requiring newer technologies to be developed.

Table 1 I/O Pad Size and Scrub

| Year of Production | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|--------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| <i>I/O Pad Size (um)</i> | X | Y | X | Y | X | Y | X | Y |
| Wirebond | 50 | 90 | 45 | 80 | 40 | 70 | 35 | 60 |
| Bump | 100 | 100 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| <i>Scrub (% of Pad)</i> | Area | Depth | Area | Depth | Area | Depth | Area | Depth |
| Wirebond | 25 | 90 | 25 | 75 | 25 | 75 | 25 | 50 |
| Bump | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |

3.3 Multi-Device Under Test

Productivity gains are often realized when testing (probing) more than one device in parallel. In memory testing, for example, it is common to test 32 devices in parallel. As Table 2 indicates, virtually all memory testing is done in multi-device under test (multi-DUT) fashion. The move to multi-DUT testing within other product categories is already underway and accelerating.

Multi-DUT probing requirements drive the need for more and more probe contacts across an ever-growing area. Ultimately contacting the entire wafer will be required; even today, some new contact/probe technologies claim full wafer contact capability or very close to it.

Table 2 Multi-DUT Probing

| Year of Production | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------|
| <i>Volume (% of Total Wafers Probed)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Memory (DRAM) | | 99.9 | | 99.9 | | 99.9 | | 99.9 |
| ASIC | | 25 | | 33 | | 45 | | 50 |
| Microprocessor | | 50 | | 60 | | 75 | | 75 |
| RF | | 20 | | 30 | | 40 | | 45 |
| Mixed Signal | | 30 | | 40 | | 45 | | 45 |
| <i>Size of Probed Area (mm²)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Memory (DRAM) | 32 to 128 Devices | | 64 to 192 devices | | 64 to 380 devices | | 100% of wafer | |
| ASIC | | 1450 | | 1560 | | 1700 | | 1700 |
| Microprocessor | | 1450 | | 1560 | | 1700 | | 2050 |
| RF | | 313 | | 625 | | 625 | | 900 |
| Mixed Signal | | 513 | | 1063 | | 1225 | | 1413 |
| <i>Number of Probe Points/Touchdown</i> | Signal | Total | Signal | Total | Signal | Total | Signal | Total |
| Memory (DRAM) | 860-3450 | 1120-4480 | 1730-5180 | 2240-6720 | 1730-10260 | 2240-13300 | 14500 | 18700 |
| ASIC | 625 | 1250 | 775 | 1550 | 950 | 1900 | 1050 | 2100 |
| Microprocessor | 260 | 775 | 310 | 925 | 400 | 1200 | 450 | 1350 |
| RF | 125 | 225 | 180 | 325 | 235 | 425 | 250 | 450 |
| Mixed Signal | 250 | 330 | 375 | 500 | 375 | 500 | 450 | 600 |

3.4 Electrical Performance

The probe card provides electrical contact between the DUTs on a wafer and the test system electronics. The probe card must faithfully transmit/deliver DUT power and signals from/to the test system.

The wafer probing community expressed interest in roadmap information on four key electrical parameters:

1. Current (max.)
 - At probe tip
 - DC leakage
2. Resistance
 - Contact
 - Series
3. Device Operating Voltages
4. AC Characteristics
 - Bandwidth (test operating frequency)
 - Reflections

The ITRS document is the suggested source for device operating voltages and AC characteristics – bandwidth. AC characteristics – reflections information is not in the ITRS document; data were not available to be collected by the ISMT Wafer Probe Benchmarking Project. However Test and Test Equipment provides tester performance information on a wide range of electrical characteristics that may illuminate requirements for wafer probing.

While the current carrying capability of individual probes contacts (see Table 3) appears sufficient, the aggregate total current across the DUT is expected to rise with growing circuit densities and pin counts. Of note is that some selected applications are seeing the need for higher current carrying capability, approaching 1 amp or more.

Contact resistance is always a closely watched probe technology parameter. It is influenced by many factors (contact force, scrub, cleaning, etc.). The values shown in Table 3 reflect contact resistance under normal usage over the practical lifetime of the probe. Initial and after cleaning requirements are often considerably lower, typically in the 200 milliohm range. Not shown in the table is a growing requirement for lower contact resistance values for longer periods (numbers of touchdowns) before cleaning.

Table 3 Electrical Performance

| Year of Production | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| <i>Current (Probe Tip Max. mA) (DC Leakage Max. nA)</i> | Probe Tip | DC Leakage | Probe Tip | DC Leakage | Probe Tip | DC Leakage | Probe Tip | DC Leakage |
| Memory (DRAM) | 100 | <10 | 100 | <10 | 100 | <10 | 100 | <10 |
| ASIC | 300 | <10 | 350 | <10 | 350 | <10 | 350 | <10 |
| Microprocessor | 350 | <10 | 275 | <10 | 275 | <10 | 275 | <10 |
| RF | 200 | <10 | 200 | <10 | 200 | <10 | 200 | <10 |
| Mixed Signal | 250 | <10 | 250 | <10 | 250 | <10 | 250 | <10 |
| <i>Resistance (Max. ohm)</i> | Contact | Series | Contact | Series | Contact | Series | Contact | Series |
| Memory (DRAM) | <1 | <4 | <1 | <4 | <1 | <4 | <1 | <4 |
| ASIC | <1 | <4 | <1 | <4 | <1 | <4 | <1 | <4 |
| Microprocessor | <1 | <3 | <1 | <3 | <1 | <3 | <1 | <3 |
| RF | <1 | <2 | <1 | <2 | <1 | <2 | <1 | <2 |
| Mixed Signal | <1 | <2 | <1 | <2 | <1 | <2 | <1 | <2 |

3.5 Thermal Performance

In the timeframe of this roadmap, the wafer probe is expected to see a more demanding thermal environment. In many cases, the low end chuck setpoint is dropping while the high-end setpoint is rising, resulting in a much wider temperature range. This will necessitate selecting materials that handle the extremes and, possibly more notably, dealing with temperature co-efficient of expansion issues.

Table 4 Thermal Performance

| Year of Production | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| <i>Chuck Set-Point (°C)</i> | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max |
| Memory (DRAM) | -20 | 125 | -40 | 140 | -40 | 140 | -40 | 140 |
| ASIC | 25 | 100 | 25 | 100 | 25 | 110 | 25 | 110 |
| Microprocessor | -10 | 125 | -20 | 125 | -30 | 135 | -30 | 135 |
| RF | 25 | 115 | 10 | 120 | 5 | 120 | 5 | 120 |
| Mixed Signal | 25 | 95 | 25 | 115 | 25 | 125 | 25 | 125 |
| <i>Soak Time (Minutes)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Memory (DRAM) | | 10 | | 10 | | 10 | | 10 |
| ASIC | | 8 | | 8 | | 8 | | 8 |
| Microprocessor | | 15 | | 13 | | 13 | | 10 |
| RF | | 10 | | 10 | | 10 | | 10 |
| Mixed Signal | | 10 | | 10 | | 10 | | 10 |

4 WAFER PROBE OPERATIONS REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Unit Cost and Cost of Ownership

Probe card unit cost and cost of ownership (COO) trends are not covered in this roadmap. Though individual member companies may have their own approaches to unit cost and COO measurements and goals, consistent models need to be developed that can be used industry wide and that cover the wide range of probe card technologies on the market.

4.2 Leadtime

Driven by the accelerating pace of new design introductions and shrinks, leadtime requirements for initial orders and re-orders are trending downward. Between 2002 and 2005, leadtimes are reduced by nearly 50%. The growing percentage of wafers that are tested in multi-DUT fashion with more complicated probe assemblies magnifies the task of achieving these leadtimes. Strategies, and perhaps technologies, to reduce leadtime are needed.

Table 5 Order Leadtime

| Year of Production | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| <i>Order Leadtime- Single DUT (weeks)</i> | 1st Order | Re-Order | 1st Order | Re-Order | 1 st Order | Re-Order | 1st Order | Re-Order |
| Memory (DRAM) | 10 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| ASIC | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Microprocessor | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| RF | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Mixed Signal | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| <i>Order Leadtime- Multi-DUT (weeks)</i> | 1st Order | Re-Order | 1st Order | Re-Order | 1 st Order | Re-Order | 1st Order | Re-Order |
| Memory (DRAM) | 11 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| ASIC | 9 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Microprocessor | 8 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| RF | 8 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Mixed Signal | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 |

4.3 Cleaning

Generally online cleaning frequency for cantilever probes remains flat; however, probe usage (touchdowns) before offline cleaning is increasing for many of the product families. The goal is better utilization of the test systems and the probe.

For vertical probes, a 50% increase in the number of touchdowns before online cleaning reflects a desire to reduce the vertical technologies' online cleaning frequency to more closely match cantilever technologies. Similar to cantilever technologies, touchdowns before offline cleaning are increasing across all product categories.

While not reflected in the tables, there is a move to eliminate online cleaning for memory products in the later years of the roadmap's horizon. This likely reflects the design and/or

complexity of probes with pin counts approaching full wafer contact. Also not reflected is the growing desire to achieve cleaning-free probing for all products.

Table 6 Touchdowns Before Cleaning

| Year of Production | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|--|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| <i>Touchdowns Before Cleaning (Cantilever)</i> | Online | Offline | Online | Offline | Online | Offline | Online | Offline |
| Memory (DRAM) | 200 | 6,000 | 300 | 15,000 | 400 | 20,000 | 400 | 20,000 |
| ASIC | 3,250 | 57,500 | 3,250 | 57,500 | 3,250 | 60,000 | 3,250 | 60,000 |
| Microprocessor | 1,250 | 50,000 | 1,250 | 50,000 | 1,250 | 50,000 | 1,250 | 50,000 |
| RF | 1,000 | 100,000 | 1,000 | 100,000 | 1,000 | 100,000 | 1,000 | 100,000 |
| Mixed Signal | 2,000 | 125,000 | 2,000 | 150,000 | 2,000 | 175,000 | 2,000 | 200,000 |
| <i>Touchdowns Before Cleaning (Vertical)</i> | Online | Offline | Online | Offline | Online | Offline | Online | Offline |
| Memory | 1,000 | 6,000 | 1,000 | 15,000 | 1,500 | 20,000 | 1,500 | 20,000 |
| ASIC | 1,000 | 10,500 | 1,000 | 15,000 | 1,500 | 17,500 | 1,500 | 17,500 |
| Microprocessor | 1,000 | 28,000 | 1,000 | 32,500 | 1,500 | 35,000 | 1,500 | 35,000 |
| RF | 100 | 10,000 | 100 | 15,000 | 100 | 20,000 | 100 | 20,000 |
| Mixed Signal | 1,000 | 55,000 | 1,000 | 82,500 | 1,500 | 85,000 | 1,500 | 85,000 |

APPENDIX A DIFFICULT CHANGES

Note: The ISMT Wafer Probe Benchmarking project provided the following section to the 2001 ITRS update.¹ It is repeated here with permission.

Introduction

Wafer probe technologies face complex electrical and mechanical challenges driven by product specifications, test implementation requirements, test productivity goals, and reduced test cost demands. Across the device spectrum, these challenges include: higher frequency response (bandwidth), rising pin counts across tighter pitches and smaller pads/bumps, increasing switching currents (di/dt), alternative pad/bump metallurgies and multiplying test parallelism. Research and development of new or improved probe technologies is required to meet these challenges to ensure that the basic probing requirement of ensuring reliable, sound and cost-effective electrical contact to the DUT(s) is achieved.

Trends Affecting Probe Card Technologies

Along with addressing the key challenges listed below, research and development is urgently required to bring to the market cost-effective probe technologies directed at trends in product offerings and the testing environment.

The continuing volume growth (share of market) of bumped devices, often with I/Os in area arrays, points to the escalating demand for ‘vertical’ style probe card technologies, with a rising need in multi-DUT configurations as well.

Increasingly, manufacturing test of devices is moving to multi-DUT. For some product groups (e.g. memory), current wafer probe technologies handle multi-DUT testing of 32, 64 and even 128 devices in parallel. Probe technologies capable of further increases in parallelism, including up to full wafer (up to 300 mm), are needed to drive test costs lower. For some high I/O count products (e.g. ASICS) multi-DUT probing requirements are emerging.

Wafer probe electrical models, that integrate models of other elements in the path from tester to DUT, will be required of probe suppliers. These models will be needed to conduct simulations of increasingly complex automated test equipment (ATE) to DUT interface networks to optimize performance at the DUT.

As new or advanced probe technologies are entering the marketplace, issues of single-sourcing, order to delivery time, application support and reparability are important and essential considerations in the selection of a probe card for use in volume production.

Issues and Challenges

Table 7 lists other key challenges with specific issues/goals facing wafer probes/probing in the near term.

¹ Semiconductor Industry Association. *The International Technology Roadmap for Semiconductors*, 2001 edition. International SEMATECH: Austin, TX, 2001.

Table 7 Probe Card Difficult Challenges

| Challenge | Issue/Goal |
|------------------------|--|
| High Frequency Probing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional probe technologies do not have the necessary electrical bandwidth for higher frequency devices. At the top end are RF devices – requiring up to 40 GHz |
| Reduced Geometry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probe technologies to support peripheral fine pitch probe of 44 μm, and peripheral staggered pad probes at effective pitches of 30/60 Fine Pitch vertical probe technologies to support 100 μm pitch solder bump and staggered pad devices Reduction of pad damage at probe commensurate with pad size reductions (or better) Alternative Probe technology for 3 on 6 mil pitch dense array (vertical probe; bumped device) |
| Multi-DUT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need a probe technology to handle the complexity of “System On a Chip” (SoC) devices at probing of more than one device. Current Probe technologies have I/O limitations for bumped device probes Effects on Probes at non-ambient temperatures |
| Probing at Temperature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce effects on Probes for non-ambient testing -40 to 150°C; especially for fine-pitch devices |
| Product | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probe technologies to direct probe on copper bond pads including various oxidation considerations. Probe technologies for probing over active circuitry (including flip-chip) |
| Probe Cleaning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Inset cleaning mediums/methods, particularly for fine pitch, multi-DUT and non-traditional probes |
| Cost & Delivery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine pitch or high pin count probe cards are too expensive and take too long to build Time and cost to repair fine pitch or high pin count probe cards is very high The time between chip design completion (“tape-out”) and the availability of wafers to be probed is less than the time required to design and build a probe card in almost every probe technology except traditional cantilever. Space transformer lead times are too long, thus causing some vertical probe technologies to have lengthy leadtimes |
| Probe Metrology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools that support fine pitch probe characterization and pad damage measurements. Metrology correlation – repair vs. on-floor usage |

APPENDIX B
GLOSSARY
(some commonly used wafer probing terms)

| Term | Definition |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Alignment | Distance from the center of the probe mark to a specified point of probing (not necessarily the middle of the bond pad). |
| Active Structure Under Pad | Circuitry, including interconnect paths, located directly beneath the bond pad (or bump) used for probing. |
| Bandwidth | Operating frequency range. Normally, range over which impact on signal is limited to < -3 dB. |
| Bond Pad | The metal areas on the integrated circuit used for electrical interfacing that the probes contact for testing. |
| Bond Pad Size/Opening | The measured unpassivated area of the bond pad that can be probed (x, y or dia.). |
| Bump | Bump or ball of metal deposited on the bond pad for interconnect purposes. |
| Bump Diameter (μm) | The base diameter of the bump. |
| Bump Diameter (delta) | The difference in the bump diameter from the original after deformation caused by probing. |
| Bump Height (μm) | The height of the bump measured from the surface of the bond pad. |
| Bump Height (delta) | The difference of the bump height from the original after deformation caused by probing. |
| Bump Metallurgy | Composition of the bump (e.g., Au or Pb%/Sn%). |
| Bump Volume Displaced | The volume of material displaced by deformation caused by probing. |
| Capacitive Spec | Capacitive loading of the DUT pin. |
| Cleaning Frequency | Maximum number of touchdowns by a probe card before cleaning (online or offline) is required. |
| Cleaning Offline | Cleaning the probe card off the prober (e.g., cleaning station, grinding, etc.). |
| Cleaning Online | Cleaning the probe card on the prober (e.g., disks, wafers, brush, etc.). |
| Contact Force | The force applied at overdrive. |
| Contact Resistance | The effective resistance between probe and bond pad during testing. |
| Cross Talk | Level of interference between signal lines measured in db. |
| Current | Current carrying capability of a probe without deterioration of the probe's specified properties. Average, maximum/duty cycle values need to be considered. |
| Deflection | The distance the probe travels after initial contact with the bond pad relative to the overdrive applied (scrub length/width). |
| First Touch | When the first probe makes electrical contact with the bond pad. |
| Inline Pads | An arrangement of bond pads in a single row sharing the same X or Y coordinate. |
| Leakage | Current leakage with all other pins held to ground. |
| Matched Impedance | The minimal difference in impedance of signal paths. |
| Multi-DUT Patterns | The pattern arrangement of the die to allow for multi-DUT probing. |
| Needle or Pin | A single probe. |

| Term | Definition |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Overdrive Accuracy/Resolution | Capability of the prober to apply additional measured z travel once the probe contacts the bond pad |
| Pad Damage | Deformation of the bond pad caused by probing (area of disrupted metal/depth into pad/height of disrupted metal above the pad surface). |
| Pad Metallurgy | The composition of the last (top) metal of the bond pad (e.g., Au or Al or AlSiCu, etc.). |
| Pad Thickness (μm) | The thickness of the last (top) metal of the bond pad (e.g., Au or Al or AlSiCu, etc.). |
| Pad Volume Displaced | The volume of material displaced by deformation caused by probing. |
| Planarity | The vertical distance between the highest and lowest probes on a probe card. |
| Probe Pitch | The minimum distance between probed points (pads) on a chip. |
| Probe Scrub Area | The measured area of deformation caused by probing. |
| Probe Scrub Depth | The measured penetration of the probe mark into the bond pad metal. |
| Probed Points | The total number of pads or bumps to be probed (signal + power & ground). |
| Reprobe (max.) | The maximum allowable number of touchdowns on a pad, including those touchdowns (although no testing occurs) due to prober stepping pattern during multi-DUT testing. |
| Resistance Series/Path (SPR) | The total resistance between the tester and probe, including interconnects, PCB, components, fixed probe resistance, etc. |
| Signal Matching | Minimizing the difference in impact on signals by using matched impedance. |
| Staggered Pads | Multiple closely spaced parallel rows of pads with an offset in x or y or pitch between rows. |
| Tier/Layer | One epoxy layer/ring of probes. Multiple tiers may be used for "outreach" probes. |
| UBM | Under bump metallurgy; used to enhance bump adhesion to the bond pad. |
| XY Area | Total x,y dimensions to be probed per touchdown. Single DUT = chip x,y dimensions. Multi-DUT = chip x,y dimension times # DUTs x,y plus # of x,y scribe linewidths |

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