

Title: How the EPIT process has helped VSEA to Improve Equipment Productivity

VSEA is a proven supplier of ion implant equipment in the semiconductor market place. One key element of maintaining our competitive advantage has been our ability to incorporate customer input into our equipment continuous improvement program (CIP). ISMI (International Sematech Manufacturing Initiative), a leading consortium of semiconductor manufacturers, provides a forum for its multiple members to have direct impact on our CIP program content. This paper will present the key elements of the Sematech EPIT process (from a suppliers perspective) and how VSEA leverages this with our CIP program. The ability for our customers to directly communicate with our product engineering staff at our facility is one of the key EPIT elements that we have been able to translate into a "Win, Win" for the customer and VSEA. The EPIT process provides the supplier with a forum to communicate a common message to multiple customers, such as product schedules, performance data for CIP projects, and beta site results. Examples of how this process has translated into improvements incorporated into our E Series systems will be reviewed.

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