



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GE Introduces i21* Ingot, a New High-Purity Quartz Material, to Support Production of Next-Generation Semiconductors

As semiconductor wafers get larger and line widths decrease, GE responds to customer requirements with innovative new quartz manufacturing process to keep yields high

STRONGSVILLE, OH —July 10, 2006 — GE Advanced Materials, Quartz today announced the launch of i21 ingot, a new quartz product manufactured using a patent-pending process to meet stringent quality requirements for next-generation semiconductor production.

A homogenous, solid quartz material, the new GE i21 quartz ingot is an excellent choice for semiconductor equipment manufacturers in the production of advanced 300 mm wafers with sub-micron line widths. The ultra-low defect concentration of GE i21 ingot reduces the risk that particulate will adversely impact semiconductor yields when larger, more expensive, and more chip-intensive wafers are used.

GE is helping customers streamline manufacturing processes and minimize waste by making the i21 ingot material available in diameters ranging from 400mm to 560mm, dimensions that closely match the final part size. The material's low OH (hydroxyl group) content also makes it valuable for batch diffusion systems that experience high temperatures.

"We've developed the GE i21 quartz ingot to help our customers worldwide keep pace with increasingly demanding semiconductor manufacturing environments," said Robert Koch, product manager, Semiconductor Quartz. "The i21 ingot is manufactured as a solid cylinder, using our patent-pending process, to be virtually bubble free. This high quality drastically reduces the likelihood that impurities and particulate will jeopardize wafer yield. The GE i21 ingot is an innovative product, positioned to help the semiconductor industry sustain its advances in manufacturing efficiencies and chip performance."

Common applications for i21 ingot include windows and components for single wafer and batch systems. The product is available worldwide.

GE Advanced Materials, Quartz will display a 22 inch (560mm) column of the i21 ingot material at its booth (#6144) at the Semicon West Show being held at the Moscone Center in San Francisco, July 10 to 14.



GE
Advanced Materials

About GE Advanced Materials

The Advanced Materials business of General Electric Company is part of the Industrial business group and is headquartered in Wilton, Conn. Comprised of Silicones and Quartz, GE Advanced Materials is a global leader in providing a range of high-technology materials solutions. The GE Advanced Materials, Silicones' portfolio includes silicone-based products and technology platforms, silanes, sealants and adhesives. The Quartz portfolio includes high-purity fused quartz and ceramics materials. These materials solutions are used as springboards for innovation in hundreds of consumer and industrial applications ranging from car engines to biomedical devices to integrated circuits. Industries served include aerospace, agriculture, appliances, automotive, construction, electronics, furniture and furnishings, healthcare, home care, industrial, lighting, packaging, personal care, plastics, semiconductor, telecommunications, tire, transportation, and water purification. As a Worldwide Partner of the Olympic Games, GE is the exclusive provider of a wide range of innovative products and services that are integral to successful Games. Experience more at www.ge.com/advancedmaterials.

* i21 is a trademark of General Electric Company

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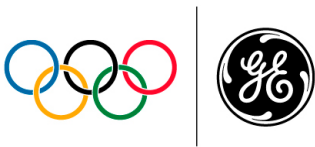
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