

Pintail Unveils Semiconductor Industry's Most Advanced Testing Software

*New Solution Helps Manufacturers Reduce Costs, Speed Products to Market
and Improve Back End Testing Processes*

Baltimore – October 8, 2002 – (International Test Conference) – Pintail Technologies, Inc. today announced the availability of the Pintail TestVision Suite, a powerful new semiconductor test management software solution that enables manufacturers to deliver higher-quality products to market faster and at lower cost. TestVision incorporates an innovative application of real-time statistical process control (SPC) and enables companies to analyze, simulate, optimize and monitor their worldwide test operations. It's the first solution to combine sophisticated analytical tools with real-time test process control capabilities in an integrated software suite.

The TestVision Suite is currently being used by test and product engineers at some of the leading semiconductor companies, including Intersil, Silicon Labs, STATS and Agilent. Manufacturers using the Pintail solution estimate annual savings on average of \$300,000 to \$600,000 per tester.

"The Pintail TestVision Suite gives us the ability to visually analyze large volumes of test data and incorporate improvements into our test processes in real-time," said TF Han, vice president of Test Operations at STATS. "This, combined with the ability to quickly identify and work through test issues with engineering teams at remote locations, significantly reduces the time and costs associated with traditional back-end semiconductor testing. These capabilities will definitely give us a leg-up on the competition."

The TestVision suite combines world-class analytical and simulation capabilities with real-time test program monitoring and optimization tools. Main features of the suite include:

- TestVision Studio – an easy-to-use, analysis product designed for semiconductor product and test engineers. It provides unprecedented analytical, graphical and data management capabilities, including the ability to instantaneously generate a complete Gage R&R analysis, eliminating the tedious five-week process typically associated with this effort. Engineers can also analyze large amounts of test data and apply sophisticated SPC techniques to their test processes, enabling them to quickly characterize and correlate data, perform root cause analysis, rapidly debug and improve test programs and run simulations in a low-risk manner.
- TestVision Manager – a monitoring and sampling solution for semiconductor test management. Without delaying test program execution, it compares actual results against previously established test profiles in real-time. Alerts are sent when critical problems are encountered. A configurable series of test reports are also automatically generated and distributed upon completion of a test sequence. TestVision Manager can dramatically reduce overall test time by dynamically implementing real-time sampling of test programs that are in statistical control.

Pintail and its customers have studied dozens of real-world test cases and pinpointed significant opportunities to safely reduce costs by improving current test processes and reducing test time. Analysis of live test data from multiple customers has demonstrated that an average of 37 percent of tests at production sites are statistically out of control and the source of significant scrap losses and unnecessary production bottlenecks. Another 30-50 percent of tests are candidates for sampling-based optimization, which can result in cost savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars per tester each year.

An extensive business analysis performed by a large semiconductor manufacturer projected that adoption of the TestVision Suite would produce achievable annual savings in excess of \$39M per year for just one of its mixed signal and analog assembly locations. The calculated savings were the result of cost-of-good improvements, test time reductions and capital avoidance. Additional savings from engineering productivity gains were not factored into the study.

“The Pintail TestVision Suite was designed in partnership with customers from all facets of the semiconductor industry, including IDM, Fabless, Test & Assembly and ATE manufacturers,” said Jeff Bibbee, president and CEO of Pintail Technologies. “Together we identified the most critical areas for industry-wide improvement and worked closely to ensure that Pintail developed a solution that met the industry’s most stringent test quality and technical requirements.”

The Pintail TestVision suite ships this month. TestVision Studio is licensed per desktop on either an annual or perpetual subscription basis. TestVision Manager is licensed per tester and priced on an annual subscription basis. Professional services are also available to assist customers with business case development, product training and methodology development for applying statistical techniques to back-end testing.

About Pintail Technologies

Pintail Technologies is a semiconductor test improvement and yield learning company that provides breakthrough software to reduce the cost of test and increase production output and quality through existing test equipment and programs. Pintail has created the first test improvement solutions to combine real-time test process control capabilities with innovative analytical programs in an integrated software suite designed for speed and accuracy. Fabless and integrated device manufacturers worldwide, in collaboration with leading assembly and test suppliers use Pintail tools to increase competitive advantage and improve responsiveness to test issues. Pintail has sales offices in Dallas, Austin, San Jose, Seoul, Singapore, Taiwan, Munich and Switzerland. See more information at www.pintail.com.

