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electronicAsia 2005 On Track As Industry Roars Ahead With Buoyant Sales

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Hong Kong - Jun 13, 2005 (PRN): According to a March 2005 report by Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI) 2004 turned out well to be the second biggest year on record for tool vendors, due to worldwide sales of semiconductor manufacturing equipment totaling US\$37.08 billion in 2004 with a year-over-year increase of 67.1%. Japan grew 49% to about US\$8.3 billion, Taiwan at 166% to US\$7.8 billion, Korea at an additional 45% while regions combined to include Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and other smaller global markets, saw growth at 114% with Chinese mainland increased at 132%. Asian countries have performed well and expected to keep up the pace well into 2005.

The mobile phone industry similarly posted a record for the first quarter of 2005 with worldwide sales totaling 180.6 million units, a 17% increase for the same period in 2004, according to Gartner Inc. Worldwide mobile phone sales in 2005 are projected at 750 million units, a 13% increase from 2004. Yet, another research group, Semico Research Corporation revealed that NAND markets have revenues jumping 80% to US\$7.2 billion making NAND the fastest-growing of any semiconductor market in 2004. Market researcher, Advanced Forecasting, citing recently published industry data, believes the semiconductor industry is moving away from any major recession expected in earlier forecasts. IC Insights too supports a bullish 2005, with their May 2005 forecast update. It noted that both the Chinese mainland and Japan experienced stronger than expected GDP growth early in the year and that major IC unit inventory corrections are behind the industry while wireless and NAND flash chips have seen very strong growth early this year.

Research group, The Information Network, added that the Chinese mainland's expanding IC industry is geared to produce 22 billion ICs this year, accounting for just 20% of domestic demand. The firm noted also that most high-end ICs for computers and mobile phones had to be imported to the value of US\$36 billion worth. With skyrocketing consumption of ICs in the Chinese mainland outpacing growth in domestically made ICs, Chinese mainland is expected to consume 83 billion ICs this year, creating a demand that will grow 32% this year to US\$45 billion.

A recent report by iSuppli Corporation advised that the Chinese mainland will post a 50% increase in the next 3 years for semiconductor demand alone. It observed that one of the faster areas of growth in the Chinese mainland would come from an area that didn't even exist five years ago, the original design manufacturers - i.e. EMS companies offering product design services. The projections are for Chinese mainland's EMS revenue to increase from \$18 billion in 2003 to \$45 billion in 2008, giving Chinese mainland 28% of the worldwide EMS revenue.

Supporting this buoyant growth in the Asian electronics and related industries markets, electronicAsia 2005 is once again the industry focus for sourcing and purchasing, all under one convenient roof. Supported by 14 industry associations from around the world and considered the prime event for international buyers, for components, assemblies, electronics production and display technologies sectors, electronicAsia 2005 at its 9th presentation will be held in Hong Kong, from October 13 to 16, 2005.

Alongside the event is the popular "World of Display Technology", a unique "fair-within-a-fair" to showcase the latest and most innovative display technologies which are becoming increasingly significant. Another prominent feature is the "Hall of Fame" - an important avenue to support manufacturers in drawing attention and boosting exposure for recognized brand names of finished products and components, with emphasis on style, design and quality.

All trade visitors will also gain a synergistic advantage as the Hong Kong Electronics Fair Autumn Edition, acknowledged as the world's second largest and Asia's busiest electronics marketplace, would be held alongside electronicAsia 2005.

electronicAsia not only gains visitors from Hong Kong and Chinese mainland but also from Asia, Europe and USA. International buyers look to Hong Kong to source Asia's best in electronics. In 2004, the event brought in almost 33,000 visitors from 129 countries and regions to meet over 550 exhibitors from 14 countries and regions spread over 12,248 sqm of exhibition space. electronicAsia is organised by MMI-Munich International Trade Fairs Pte Ltd and the TDC - Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

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