



Owens Design

YOUR DESIGN + BUILD PARTNER

Press Release

For Immediate Release
9 A.M. EDT, November 21, 2008
Contact Mark Danna | 510.659.1800
danna@owensdesign.com

Owens Design Completes Successful Collaboration with Molecular Imprints

Leading-Edge Imprio HD2200 Benefits from Owens Design's Automation Expertise

Fremont, California: Owens Design Inc., a leading design and manufacturing service provider to the semiconductor, data storage and solar capital equipment markets, today announced the successful completion of a collaborative development effort with Molecular Imprints, the technology leader in nanopatterning systems and solutions for the data storage and semiconductor markets. The recent joint effort leveraged Owens Design's automation expertise for the development of the media load module in the latest of Molecular Imprints' family of Step and Flash® Imprint Lithography (S-FIL®) tools for hard disk drive applications. The media load module is an important component in the Imprio HD2200, which is the first process tool to enable both development and pilot-production of patterned media applications.

Collaborative development offers capital equipment manufacturers a proven methodology to reduce tool development costs, minimize technical risk, optimize platform performance and speed time to market. By working closely with an established design and manufacturing company such as Owens Design, a capital equipment company like Molecular Imprints can focus its efforts on its core process technology and system development, while the design company focuses on integrating core hardware and general automation requirements onto a platform that has been optimized to meet the equipment manufacturer's performance specifications.

"The Imprio HD2200 leverages our proprietary S-FIL technology to deliver a superior nanopatterning solution to our data storage customers," said Mark Melliar-Smith, Molecular Imprints' CEO. "Outsourcing non-core technologies to partners like Owens Design allows us to efficiently leverage our resources, adding value around our strengths, accessing the complementary expertise of others and passing on savings to customers. In addition, rather than relying solely on our own production capabilities to build complete nanopatterning systems, we can leverage the significant manufacturing resources of our entire supply chain network to quickly ramp production when customer demand escalates."



Owens Design

YOUR DESIGN + BUILD PARTNER

The Imprio HD2200 is a key element in Molecular Imprints' comprehensive nanopatterning solutions. It leverages the company's S-FIL technology, which provides unmatched cost of ownership, resolution and extendibility advantages over other imprint methods. Utilizing Molecular Imprints' Drop-on-Demand approach, which delivers low-viscosity resist only where needed, S-FIL technology provides a low-cost, room temperature media patterning solution that also eliminates the thermal distortions encountered with spin-on UV imprint processes and the lamination-pressure issues associated with thermal imprinting.

"Our collaboration with Molecular Imprints marks our latest process tool design for data storage applications," said John Apgar, Owens Design's President. "As the first tool that offers both development and pilot-production capabilities for patterned media applications, it brings significant new technology capabilities to the hard disk drive industry. At the same time, the tool's throughput and low cost of ownership demonstrate the benefits of the collaborative design model."

— End —

About Owens Design

Owens Design specializes in engineering and manufacturing of capital equipment. Located in Silicon Valley for over 25 years, they have been a strategic partner in the co-creation and manufacturing process for many leading OEM capital equipment companies. Owens Design engineers and manufactures customer's products from concept, through alpha, beta, pilot and on-going production. Their development process results in a rapid design cycle and concurrent manufacturing introduction. Owens Design has and continues to be an innovative and reliable partner for equipment companies in the semiconductor, solar and related industries.

About Molecular Imprints

Owens Design specializes in engineering and manufacturing of capital equipment. Located in Silicon Valley for over 25 years, they have been a strategic partner in the co-creation and manufacturing process for many leading OEM capital equipment companies. Owens Design engineers and manufactures customer's products from concept, through alpha, beta, pilot and on-going production. Their development process results in a rapid design cycle and concurrent manufacturing introduction. Owens Design has and continues to be an innovative and reliable partner for equipment companies in the semiconductor, solar and related industries.