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Press Release

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Owens Design Expands Global Reach with European-Based Capres A/S

Fremont, California: Owens Design Inc., 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 European-based Capres A/S. Capres is Owens Designs' first European customer. The two companies collaborated on the design and development of Capres' microRSP-A300, a state of the art 300 mm metrology tool, which uses next-generation technology to provide direct nano-and micro-scale electrical characterization of conductive thin films.

Collaborative development offers semiconductor 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 can focus its efforts on its core technology, while the design company focuses on integrating that technology into a platform that has been optimized to meet the equipment manufacturer's performance specifications.

"Working with Owens Design on the development and manufacture of our new microRSP-A300 metrology tool helped us bring this next-generation tool to market much more quickly and at a much lower development cost," said Henrik Bækbo, Capres A/S's CTO. "The result is an industry-leading tool with excellent performance parameters and a low cost of ownership that make it extremely attractive to our customers."

The window for acceptable sheet resistance is shrinking with each technology node and increasingly challenging the capabilities of traditional 4-point probe metrology systems. The microRSP-A300 addresses this challenge with Capres' Micro 4-Point probe technology, which features a thousand times smaller pin/spacing pitch than more conventional probes. As a result, the microRSP-



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A300 is able to capture significant conductive thin film characteristics that can be used to determine a film's electrical characteristics. Capres' new tool offers high throughput, reliable and reproducible measurements, a simple user interface, low cost of ownership, high system uptime and easy and efficient maintenance procedures.

"This very successful collaborative effort with Capres A/S is the first fruit of a focused effort on the part of Owens Design to expand its customer base into the European semiconductor and solar manufacturing markets," said John Apgar, Owens Design's President. "More importantly, however, it demonstrates that the collaborative development approach is feasible on a global scale, regardless of where the collaborating companies are located."

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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.