



# Owens Design

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## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
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Contact Jack Yao | 510.659.1800  
jyao@owensdesign.com

### **Owens Design Introduces Turnkey Customizable Metrology Automation Platform**

**The New Element Platform Reduces Tool Development Time and Risk, While Significantly Lowering Overall Tool Cost.**

*Fremont, California:* Owens Design Inc., a leading design and manufacturing service provider to the semiconductor, solar, and data storage capital equipment markets, today introduced the Element, a turnkey customizable metrology automation platform that enables an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to rapidly and cost-effectively deploy a semiconductor “fab ready” metrology tool. The Element consists of a full wafer-handling system, integrated with the OEM’s choice of staging and fab-proven software. Designed to be easily customizable to meet the unique requirements of a particular metrology or inspection process, the Element can compress development time by as much as six to nine months, and reduce the cost of the final tool by as much as \$40,000.

“According to industry research, nearly 80 percent of an engineering team’s effort goes into development of the generic tool platform and only 20 percent of the effort goes into developing the core technology itself,” said Mark Danna, Owen Designs’ senior director of business development. “Using the Element, our new customizable metrology automation platform, the development team can devote the vast majority of their efforts to developing core technology without diluting their efforts on platform functionality, reliability and standards compliance. This helps to significantly reduce overall tool development time, cost and risk, while resulting in a much more cost-competitive end-product—a definite advantage in an increasingly cost-conscious industry.”

“The Element platform is the natural evolution of our extensive work developing metrology automation solutions for our clients. Our early stage metrology clients needed to rapidly deploy their product into the fab in a low risk, cost effective manner. By integrating the EFEM with the staging we can dramatically reduce their risk and cost,” explains Ernie Evans, Element Program Manager.



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The Element metrology automation platform features a dual FOUP wafer handling system; a 4 axis, dual-edge grip, end-effector robot; a vision based aligner; and integrated wafer staging. State-of-the-art factory automation software is available as an option, or the client can deploy their own host software solution. Owens Design's new turnkey metrology platform is capable of handling 150mm, 200mm and 300mm wafers. The Element mini-environment is ISO Class 1 and delivers front-side cleanliness of < 0.1 particles @ 0.12  $\mu\text{m}$ , PWP. The platform is design for high reliability with specifications of MTBF > 10,000 hours, MTBS > 6 months, MTTR < 2 hours and 98 percent availability. The platform also complies with all applicable SEMI industry standards, as well as I3001 Factory Guidelines.

"New semiconductor process technologies often only have one chance to prove themselves and be adopted as the process of record," noted Danna. "The Element, which is the result the expertise gained in delivering multiple metrology platforms to leading-edge fabs, can play a key role in ensuring that chance is not wasted."

For more information about Owens Design's Element Turnkey Customizable Metrology Automation Platform, please visit [www.owensdesign.com](http://www.owensdesign.com), or visit us at SEMICON West in the South Hall, Booth 2524.

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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.