

# Advanced Single-Wafer Wet Cleaning Tools for Leading Edge Integrated Circuit Fabs

May 2019



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**Forward-Looking Statements.** Information presented below under "2019 Revenue Expectation" with respect to revenue to be generated in 2019 is a forward-looking statement for purposes of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may vary significantly from ACM Research's expectations based on a number of risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to the following: anticipated customer orders or identified market opportunities may not grow or develop as anticipated; customer orders already received may be postponed or canceled; suppliers may not be able to meet ACM Research's demands on a timely basis; volatile global economic, market, industry and other conditions could result in sharply lower demand for products containing semiconductors and for ACM Research's products and in disruption of capital and credit markets; ACM Research's failure to successfully manage its operations; and trade regulations, currency fluctuations, political instability and war may materially adversely affect ACM Research due to its substantial non-U.S. customer and supplier base and its substantial non-U.S. manufacturing operations. ACM Research cannot guarantee any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. The industry in which ACM Research operates is subject to a high degree of uncertainty and risk due to variety of factors, including those described in ACM Research's public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 and its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2019 for a more complete discussion of these factors and other risks, particularly under the heading "Risk Factors." ACM Research expressly disclaims any obligation to update forward-looking statements after the date of this press release.

Market Data. Information presented below under "ACM Investment Summary" contains estimates of ACM Research concerning ACM Research's total addressable markets ("TAM") that are based on industry publications, reports and customer-generated information. This information involves a number of assumptions and limitations, and you are cautioned not to rely on or give undue weight to this information. ACM Research has not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the data contained in these publications, reports or filings. The industry in which ACM Research operates is subject to a high degree of uncertainty and risk due to variety of factors, including those described in ACM Research's public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as described above.

Note Regarding Presentation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures. Information presented below under "Q1 2019 Operating Highlights" and "Q1 2019 Financial Results" includes certain "non-GAAP financial measures" as defined in Regulation G under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including non-GAAP gross profit, non-GAAP operating profit and non-GAAP operating margin. These supplemental measures exclude the impact of stock-based compensation, which ACM Research does not believe is indicative of its core operating results. A reconciliation of each non-GAAP financial measure to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure is included in ACM Research's first-quarter earnings release dated May 8, 2019, which (a) has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and can be viewed at <a href="https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1680062/000165495419005406/acmr\_ex991.htm">https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1680062/000165495419005406/acmr\_ex991.htm</a> and (b) has been posted at, and can be downloaded from, the "Investors" content area at ACM Research's website, <a href="http://ir.acmrcsh.com/news-releases/news-release-details/acm-research-reports-first-quarter-2019-results">http://ir.acmrcsh.com/news-releases/news-releases/news-release-details/acm-research-reports-first-quarter-2019-results</a>.



# **Q1 2019 Operating Highlights**

Business Momentum Continued Despite Near-term Industry Challenges

## Solid Q1 Results

\$20.5 million revenue, up 110% from Q1 2018
\$43.1% GAAP gross margin and 11.0% GAAP operating margin
\$43.2% non-GAAP gross margin and 14.6% non-GAAP operating margin
\$27.4 million cash balance at March 31, 2019

## Total shipments of \$14 million in Q1 2019

Increase of 40% from \$10 million in Q1 2018

## • Key operational progress:

Delivered first Ultra-C Tahoe evaluation tool

Introduced two electro-plating products – Ultra ECP AP and Ultra ECP MAP

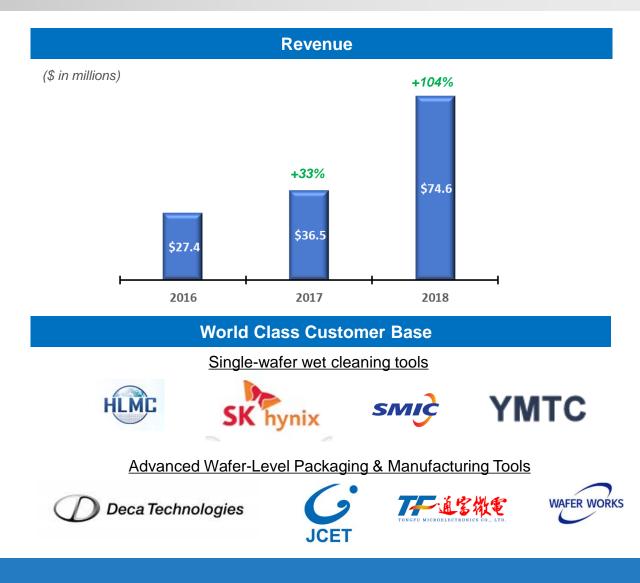
Production ramp at second factory on track



## **ACM Research Highlights**

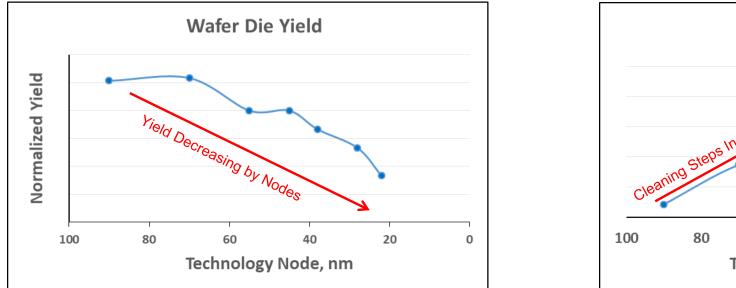
#### **Company Background**

- **Best-in-class** semiconductor wafer cleaning tools for higher yields and better efficiency at advanced fabs
- **Patented technology** delivers highly effective single-wafer wet cleaning for flat and simple structures (SAPS), and damage-free cleaning for advanced 3D patterned wafers (TEBO)
- Products address an estimated **50%+ of the \$3.1B** Single-Wafer Wet Cleaning TAM, with future expansion from new products
- HQ in Fremont, CA with operations in Shanghai, China and more than 250 employees. More than 220 patents issued in the U.S., PRC, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan (as of 3/31/2019)
- **Referenceable customer base and in-region support** position ACM to scale business with China's investment cycle
- Capacity floor space **more than doubled** to 86,000 square feet with addition of second factory in 2018





## **Killer Defects Impact Yields at 50nm and Below\***



**Total Cleaning Steps** Cleaning Steps Increasing 15% per Node 230 Number 200 170 140 Q Step 110 80 60 40 20 0 Technology Node, nm

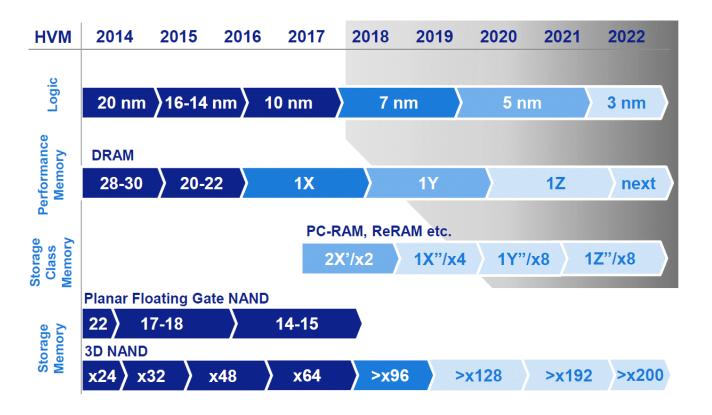
We estimate that 1% yield loss can lead to annual profit decrease of \$30M to \$50M

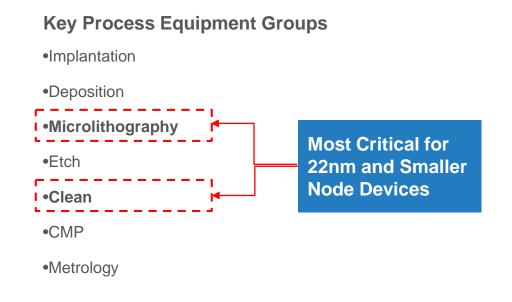
- Based on DRAM fab with 100K wafer starts per month
- Yield can be improved with breakthrough capabilities and more cleaning steps



## Semiconductor Roadmap Demands Lithography & Cleaning

#### IC Roadmap: Transistor Shrink, FinFETs & Larger Wafers\*



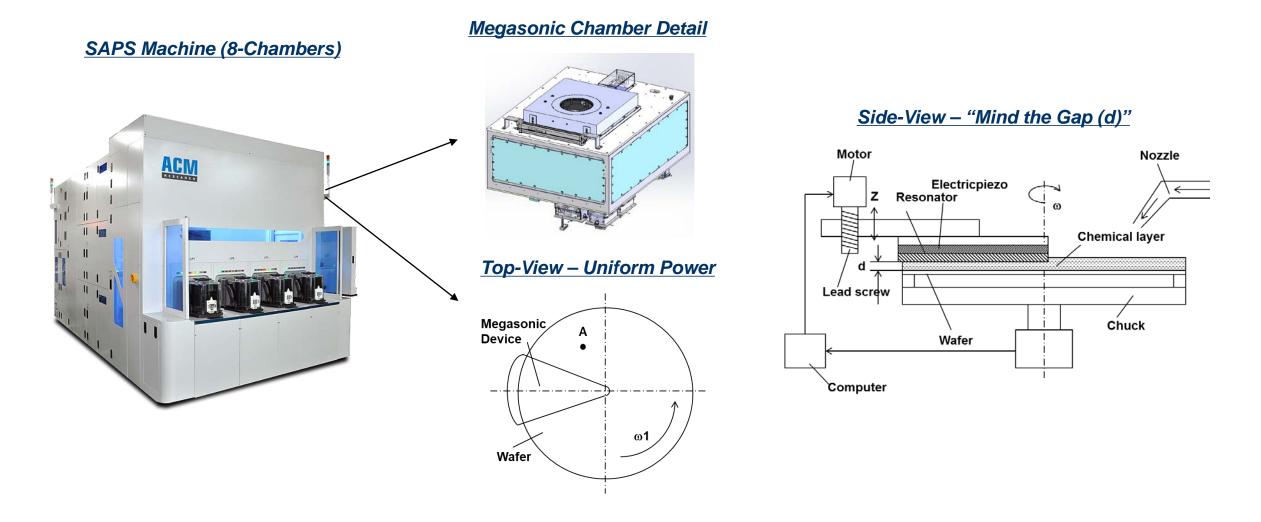


ACM offers wafer cleaning equipment designed to address one of the two key fabrication challenges

\* Source: ASML 2018 Presentation

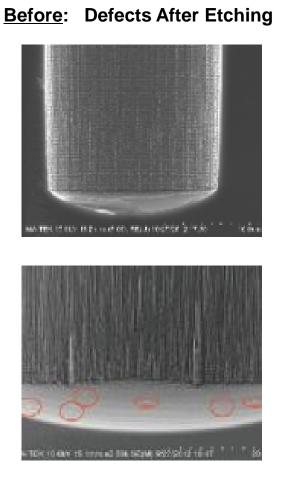


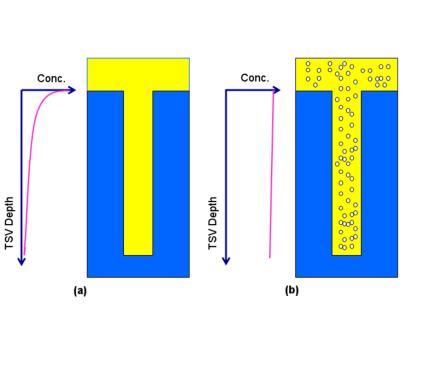
## SAPS: Uniform Megasonic Cleaning Overview





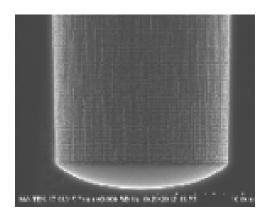
## SAPS Particle Removal: Before & After

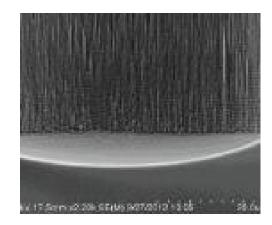




SAPS Uniform Megasonic Clean

#### After: Killer Defects Removed





Source: ACM Clean Room Tests



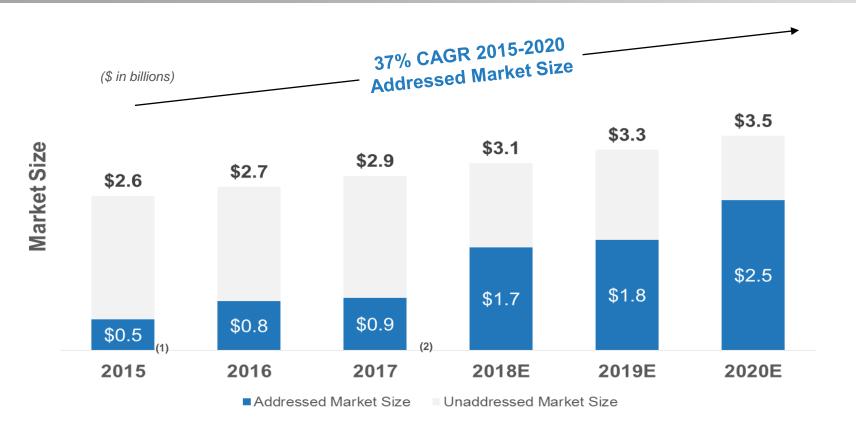
## **ACM Investment Summary**

## Advanced Single-Wafer Wet Cleaning Tools for Leading Edge IC Fabs





## Gaining Share in \$3B+ Wafer Cleaning TAM



## **Growth Drivers:**

## 1. New Products

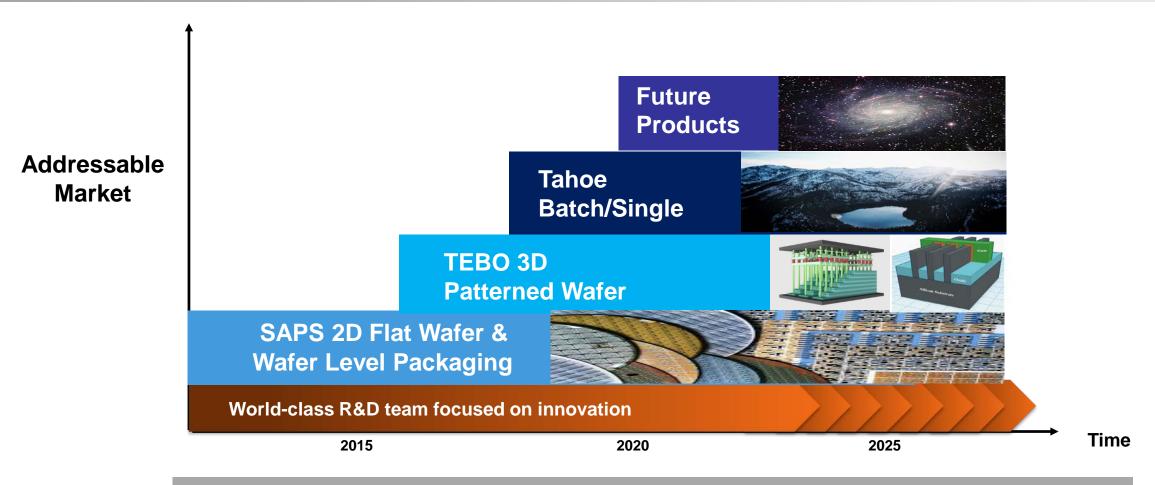
- 2. More Cleaning Steps at Higher Nodes
- 3. Customers Scaling Production
- 4. New Customers
- 5. Expanding Production

#### ACMR Opportunity Improves With Move to Advanced Process Nodes

- (1) 2015 2016 TAM per Transparency Market Research Pvt. Ltd., Report Global Semiconductor Wafer Cleaning Equipment Market, December 2016
- (2) 2017 2020E TAM per Technavio, Report Global Semiconductor Wafer Cleaning Systems Market



## **Our Product Expansion Vision**



ACM estimates that SAPS, TEBO, and Tahoe address more than 50% of the single-wafer wet cleaning market



## **ACM Research Single-Wafer Wet Cleaning Products**

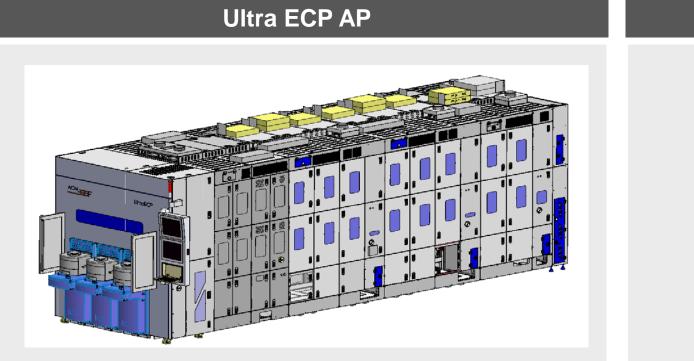


Megasonic Cleaning for 2D Structures Disruptive Solution for 3D Patterned Wafer Surface

Hybrid Wafer Cleaning With Significant Cost & Environmental Benefits

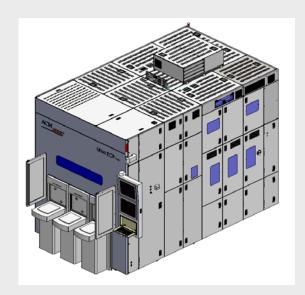


## **ACM Research Semiconductor Electro-plating Products**



- Advanced Wafer Level Packaging
- Back-end Assembly Tool

## Ultra ECP MAP



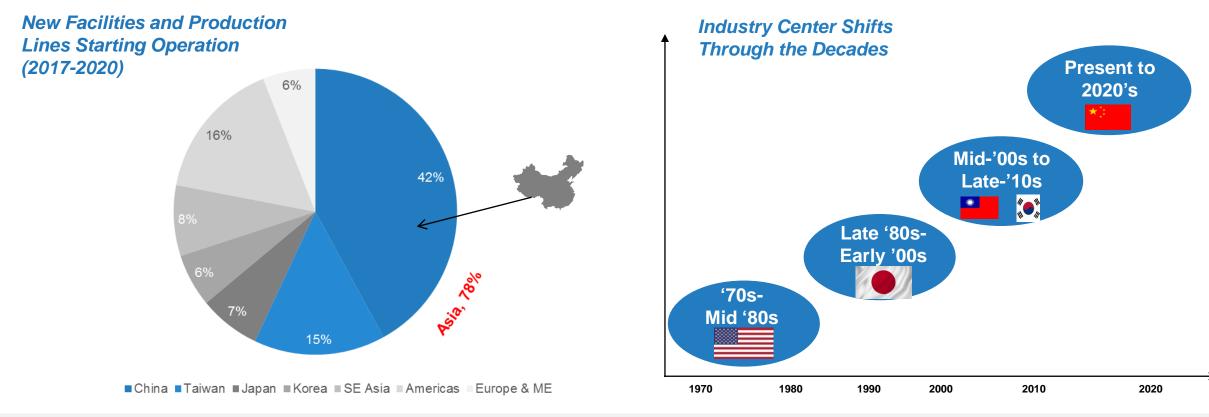
- Multi Anode Partial Plating
- Front-end wafer fabrication processes

ACM's ECP tools deliver significant benefits, including greater performance, increased flexibility, and improved cycle times



## **2** ACM Well-Positioned to Participate in Asia Fab Investments

**Semiconductor Industry Development** 



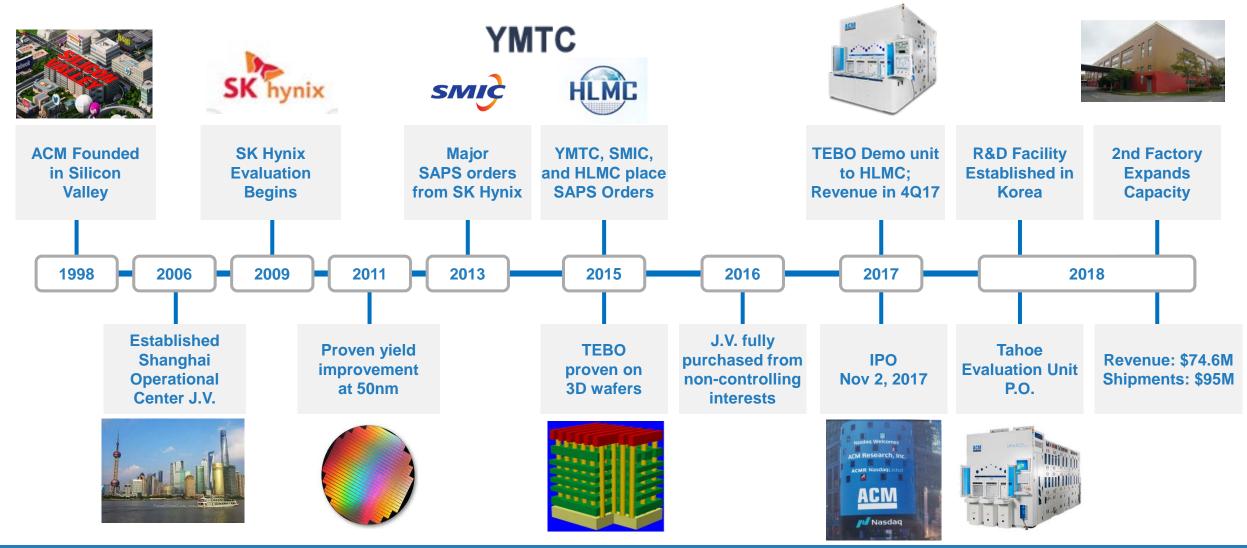


Strong presence in Asia and close proximity to Chinese customers add to key competitive advantages.

Source: World Fab Forecast Report (November 2016, SEMI)



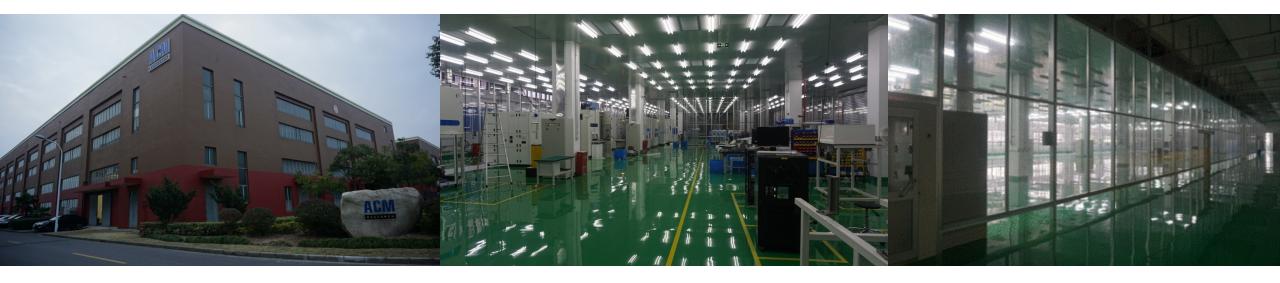
# **3** ACM History of Innovation & Customer Adoption





# **New Factory Ramps Production**

- New factory added 50,000 square feet of production capacity to 36,000 square feet at existing facility
- Production initiated at new factory in Q3 2018, expanded in Q4 2018 and ramping over the course of 2019



10-mile drive from ACM Research's Shanghai headquarters First phase of capital expenditures completed in 2018

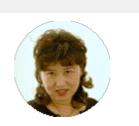
Majority of Production Mix Q1 2019



## **ACM Management and Board of Directors**



David Wang, CEO Exp: Questar Tech Ph.D. Osaka University; BS Tsinghua University



Lisa Feng, CAO Exp: Coherent, Amlogic Masters: Accounting



Mark McKechnie, VP Finance Exp: Intel, Motorola, Evercore MBA Kellogg, BSEE Purdue



Jian Wang, CTO Exp: 20+ MSc



Exp: 25+

BSc



Fuping Chen, VP Sales Exp: SK Hynix MSc

#### **Board of Directors**

ACM Management Team Decades of Industry Experience

Average of 25+ Years Experience in Semiconductor Industry and High Tech Business



Dr. David H. Wang ACM CEO & Founder



**Dr. Haiping Dun** Engineering Director at Intel; CEO at Champion



**Prof. Chenming Hu** Inventor of FinFET; Professor at UC Berkeley



Tracy Liu Managing Partner of H&M Int'l Accounting



**Yinan Xiang** 

General Manger of

SSTVC



Zhengfan Yang Director of Sino IC

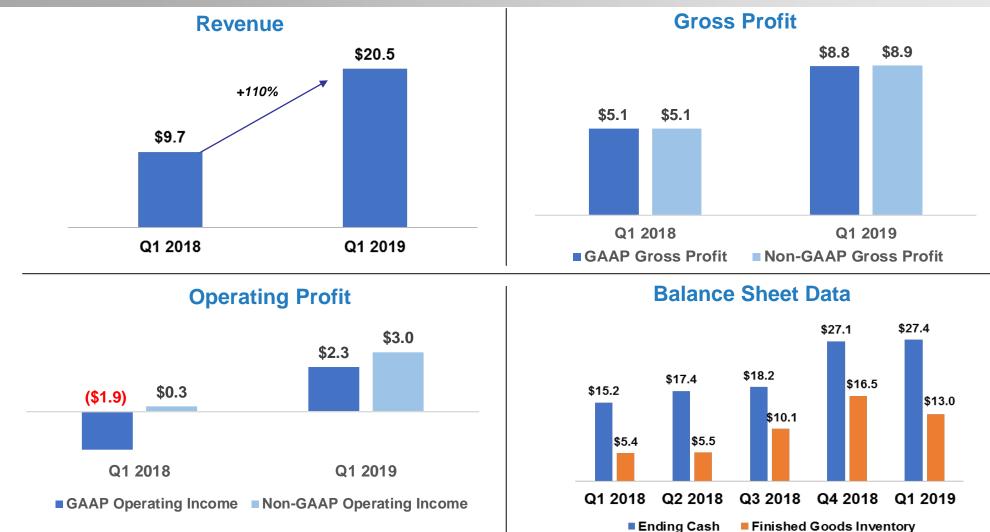


# Backup



## **Q1'19 Financial Results**

\$ Millions



A C M r e s e a r c h

\* Finished goods inventory represents 'demo-to-sales' product which have been delivered to customers for evaluation. These products are carried at cost until ownership is transferred.

## **Importance of Wafer Cleaning in Semiconductor Manufacturing**

#### **Importance of Wafer Cleaning**

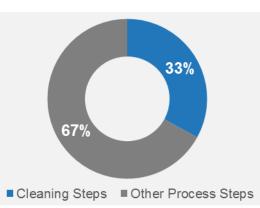
- Wafer cleaning is implemented to remove defects and particles in order to achieve good die yield
- More than 1/3 of process steps are cleaning steps
- 20 nm node DRAM: as many as 200 cleaning steps

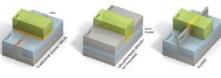
#### **Challenges for Advanced Technology Nodes**

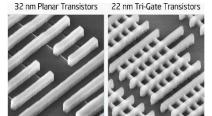
- New transistor architectures, ever smaller & more fragile features, and 3D structures lead to inadequacy or failure of conventional cleaning
- "Killer Defect" sizes shrink
- Poor PRE (Particle Removal Efficiency)
- Damage to fine device features

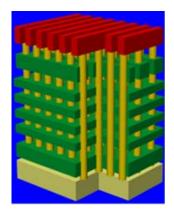


Source: Digital Innovation & Transformation, Harvard Business School "Applied Materials-When machines talk to each other", November 2015





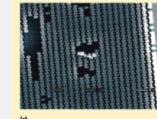




ACM's proprietary SAPS & TEBO solutions are designed to address these issues, which represent an estimated 30% of the Single-Wafer Wet Cleaning TAM



As device features become *smaller and more fragile* with high aspect ratios (feature structure depth to width ratio), conventional cleaning processes can lead to damages and loss of yield



SEM images of damages at 50-nm DRAM storage capacitors following a dSC-1 clean with megasonics in a batch immersion tool using high power densities

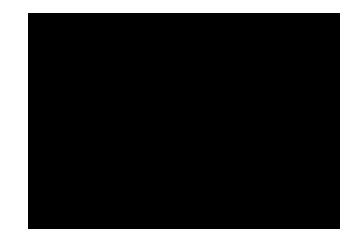
Source: Micromagazine.fabtech, by John Rosato, et al., SCP Global Technology

## **Conventional Megasonic Cleaning**



Transit cavitation results in violent micro-jet causing damage to wafer structures

## **TEBO Megasonic Cleaning**



### Stable cavitation

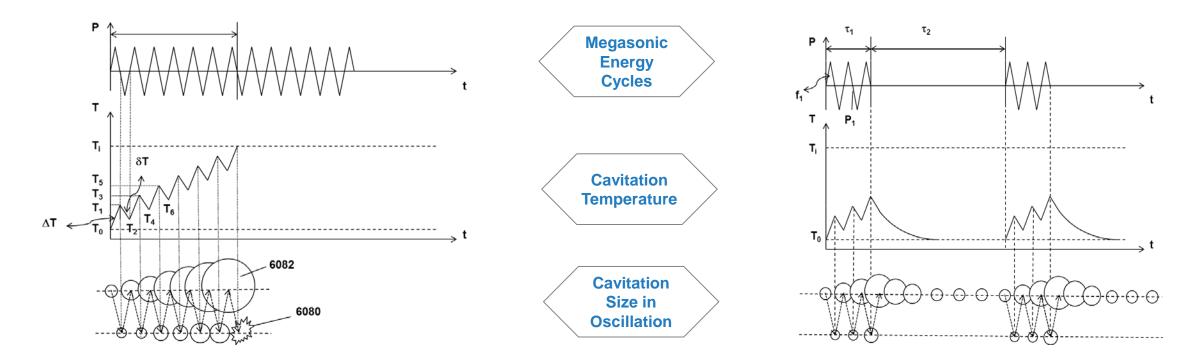


## **Conventional Megasonic Cleaning**

Transit Cavitation Implosion Damages Wafer Structure

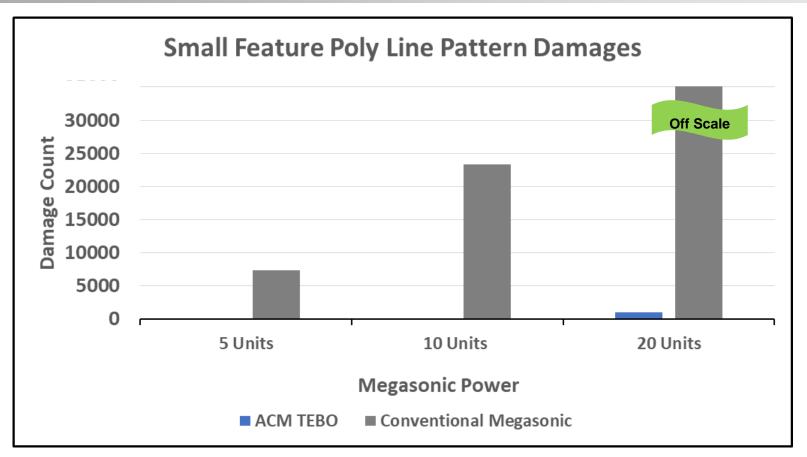
## **TEBO Megasonic Cleaning**

Stable Cavitation, Effective Cleaning, Low/No Damage





## ACM TEBO vs. Conventional Megasonic on Pattern Damage Performance



- Adequate power level is needed to ensure effective cleaning action on the wafers
- However conventional mega-sonic clean at such power causes severe pattern damages
- TEBO can operate at such power with effective clean and no/low damages



## **Q1'19 Financial Highlights**

	Three Months March 31,												
	GAAP					Non-GAAP(1)							
	2019		2	2018		2019		2018					
	(dollars in thousands)												
Revenue	\$	20,479	\$	9,743	\$	20,479	\$	9,743					
Gross margin(2)		43.1%		52.6%		43.2%		52.7%					
Income (loss) from operations(2)	\$	2,251	\$	(1,904)	\$	2,995	\$	271					
Net income (loss) attributable to ACM	\$	1 057	¢	(2, 790)	¢	2 601	\$	(605)					
Research, Inc.(2)	Φ	1,857	\$	(2,780)	\$	2,601	Φ	(605)					
Basic EPS	\$	0.12	\$	(0.18)	\$	0.16	\$	(0.04)					
Diluted EPS	\$	0.10	\$	(0.18)	\$	0.14	\$	(0.04)					
Shares included in the basic EPS		16,045		15,383		16,045		15,383					
Shares included in the diluted EPS		18,225		15,383		18,225		15,383					

(1) Reconciliations to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") financial measures from non-GAAP financial measures are presented below under "Reconciliation of GAAP to Non-GAAP Financial Measures."

(2) Non-GAAP financial measures exclude stock-based compensation.



# **Appendix – Non-GAAP to GAAP Reconciliations**

	Three Months Ended March 31,													
	2019						2018							
	Actual			SBC		Adjusted		Actual		SBC	Adjusted			
	( <b>G</b>	(GAAP)		SDC		(Non-GAAP)		(GAAP)			SDC		(Non-GAAP)	
	(in thousands)													
Revenue		\$20,479	\$		-	\$	20,479		\$9,743	\$		-	\$	9,743
Cost of revenue		(11,653)		(3	0)		(11,623)		(4,621)		(	8)		(4,613)
Gross profit		8,826		(3	0)		8,856		5,122		(	8)		5,130
Operating expenses:														
Sales and marketing		(1,869)		(3-	4)		(1,835)		(1,855)		(3-	4)		(1,821)
Research and development		(2,765)		(8)	6)		(2,679)		(1,541)		(2)	7)		(1,514)
General and administrative		(1,941)	•	(594	4)		(1,347)		(3,630)		(2,10	6)		(1,524)
Income (Loss) from operations	\$	2,251	\$	(74	4)	\$	2,995	\$	(1,904)	\$	(2,17	5)	\$	271
Net income (loss)	\$	1,857	\$	(74	4)	\$	2,601	\$	(2,780)	\$	(2,17	5)	\$	(605)

