

PRESS RELEASES

- FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION -

Silica launches 'Green Products' portal

New online resource will help companies prepare for EC directives restricting use of hazardous substances

Munich 5th February, 2004 -- Semiconductor distributor Silica has created a new online resource that provides up-to-date information on the development of 'green' products. The portal can be accessed at: www.silica.com/Green_products/index.html/ Such products must be compliant with EC directives that will restrict the use of hazardous substances such as lead (Pb) in electrical and electronic equipment.

The Green Products portal is designed to help companies prepare for the new regulations, and avoid the risk of serious commercial, technical and supply chain problems closer to the final deadlines for compliance.

Silica's Green Products portal provides a summary of the status of green product development and availability across its franchise suppliers, which include 21 of the world's largest semiconductor manufacturers. Regularly updated, it also provides direct links to more detailed information on supplier websites.

Commenting on the launch of the new Green Products portal, Tesfay Embaye, vice president technical marketing for Silica, said: "The EC directives on hazardous substances and waste equipment have far-reaching implications for all those involved in the design and manufacturing process, particularly those with responsibility for procurement. If companies do not address them now, there is a real danger they will be faced with obsolete stock, manufacturing problems and major logistical issues."

Embaye continued: "Many of our suppliers are already offering lead-free components, and have clear roadmaps for the introduction of many more 'green' products during 2004. This new online resource reflects Silica's commitment to ensuring that our customers are kept abreast of all the latest developments, including current availability, timescales for the release of compliant devices, relevant part number modifications and any plans for the withdrawal of components that will not be modified to meet the requirements of the directives."

Many of Silica's franchise suppliers are well advanced on their green product roadmaps. Frans Scheper, Senior Vice President for Philips Semiconductors, said: "Philips has established a comprehensive green roadmap. Many of our packages have already been converted to lead-free, and we anticipate that all will be compliant with the requirements of the RoHS directive by mid-2004 at the latest. We are also cooperating with distribution partners such as Silica to ensure that customers are kept fully informed of all the relevant changes to the products and part numbers."

Alan Matthews, European Marketing Director, Xilinx, said: "Xilinx implemented its lead-free programme back in 1999, and has been shipping such devices since 2002. We now offer hundreds of lead-free device and package combinations, encompassing all our high end and high volume lines. The RoHS (Restriction of the use of Hazardous Substances) directive clearly adds greater urgency to the need for companies to switch to this environmentally-sensitive technology, and we will be working alongside Silica to make sure that the transition is a seamless one."

EC directive 2002/95/EC, Restriction of the use of Hazardous Substances (RoHS), addresses the use of certain materials in electrical and electronic equipment, including lead, mercury and cadmium. The final deadline for compliance is 1st July 2006. The Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE), 2002/96/EC, also has significant implications for manufacturers.

Silica, a division of Avnet Electronics Marketing EMEA (Europe, Middle-East, Africa), is a highly specialised semiconductor distributor. Silica has sales & marketing offices throughout Europe and provides a broad

portfolio of semiconductor products and solutions from world leading suppliers to all market segments in the electronics industry. The company's Web site is located at www.silica.com.

Serving customers in 68 countries, Avnet Electronics Marketing is the largest operating group of Phoenix, Ariz.-based Avnet, Inc. (NYSE:AVT). Avnet Electronics Marketing markets, inventories and adds value to electronic components and provides world-class supply-chain management services. Avnet, with fiscal year 2003 sales of \$ 9 billion (year ended June 27, 2003), is the world's largest distributor of semiconductors, interconnect, passive and electromechanical components, embedded subsystems and enterprise computing products from leading manufacturers.

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