

# Editors' Choice Best Product Award

## Presented to KLA-Tencor

KLA-Tencor's Puma 9000 Series has received the 2006 Editors' Choice Best Product Award for Semiconductor Manufacturing Excellence. The prestigious award is presented annually by *Semiconductor International* magazine to the industry's most innovative companies – specifically those that are truly making a difference in semiconductor manufacturing via excellence in design, engineering and production capabilities.

"Advances in semiconductor technology are only possible because of the kinds of products being honored in this year's Editors' Choice Best Product Awards program," said Pete Singer, editor-in-chief of *Semiconductor International*. "Chipmakers rely on these products to create electronics that are smarter, smaller, faster, less expensive and more reliable. We congratulate the people and the companies that have had the insight and fortitude to bring these products to market."

### Advancing the state-of-the-art in wafer processing

The Puma 9000 Series is a family of UV laser-based, darkfield inspection systems for patterned wafers. The tools are used for cost- and performance-optimized defect monitoring on a broad range of layers at 65nm design rules and below.

The Puma 9000 Series is based on the revolutionary Streak™ technology, which combines multi-pixel sensor and line scanning technologies to produce high resolution darkfield imaging. The combination of the Puma 9000 platform's unsurpassed noise suppression with powerful Streak technology produces a darkfield inspection tool with the highest sensitivity at throughput for a broad range of layers and defect types. The Puma 9000 platform's configurable architecture optimizes cost of ownership for applications from tool monitoring to advanced etch. The Puma 9000 series shares a common user interface with other KLA-Tencor inspectors and review tools, to allow recipe exchange between platforms and speed yield learning.

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The Puma 9000 Series darkfield inspection system meets sensitivity and cost requirements of advanced defect inspection.

## Puma 9000 Series Benefits

- Streak technology with UV illumination provides the highest darkfield sensitivity at production throughputs on the broadest range of applications
- Low-angle illumination, selectable polarizations and programmable filters provide superior noise suppression capabilities for improved defect detection
- Common user interface with KLA-Tencor's 23xx and eS3x enables recipe transfer, lowered training costs and accelerated integration into production
- Flexible configurations provide application-specific solutions at the lowest possible cost of ownership
- Extendible technology protects customers' capital investment