SEMI Equipment Legacy Management Program
Proposal from the
Europe Chapter of the SEMI Secondary Equipment & Applications Special Interest Group

Summary
SEMI member companies operating in the secondary market for capital equipment are looking to put together a legacy management program for older equipment.

The program would bring together all companies in the supply chain (capital equipment OEM, customer, secondary market operator) to ensure the sustainable maintenance of older equipment.

This document outlines the reasoning for this program and its proposed objectives.

Contact SEMI to get involved!

Why a SEMI Legacy Equipment Management Program?
Most capital equipment OEM manufacturers have a product end-of-life strategy. For a variety of reasons, a product is no longer commercially attractive and some sort of withdrawal from the market is initiated. In other situations, for example through company failure or takeover, a more disruptive withdrawal can occur – with an immediate loss of customer support.

In all cases there is a potential for a negative effect on the equipment user – especially as the semiconductor industry in Europe has been very successful in extending equipment life well beyond design expectations. In addition, the loss of one key piece of equipment can have wide reaching repercussions – not only requiring investment in new products, but also the potential requalification of new processes.

In the case of planned withdrawal from the market, it is unquestionably the decision of the OEM concerned as to when and how to handle a product withdrawal. However, it is of vital interest to the remaining customer base that some sort of support capability remains in place for as long as the equipment concerned needs to remain in use. In many cases, the ability to produce using depreciated equipment is essential to the profitability and competitiveness of a wide range of products – particularly in the “More-than-Moore” market segments. For “unplanned” withdrawals the issue is the same – but more critical as there is no time to prepare possible contingency plans.

In all cases the key requirement is to somehow preserve the supply chain that allows the product concerned to operate.

About SEMI SEA SIG
The Secondary Equipment & Applications special interest group supports members in the global secondary market for semiconductor equipment.

SEMI provides both the forum and leadership so companies can confidently participate in an open, informed and professional environment for the secondary equipment market.

>> Click here to view latest updates and upcoming events
This includes consumables, spares for routine and extended maintenance and of course the engineering skills required to perform remedial tasks.

Within the remit of the SEMI SEA groups around the world, is it possible to put in place “standards” or procedures, acceptable to all parties, that seek to ensure continuity of support to the customer base for as long as it is feasible/required?

Proposed Activities

Activities that could be discussed include:

1. Can a “standard” be agreed for implementing a process of, where possible, preserving the supply chain and core technology of products when they are “retired” – ideally through a legacy management program with third party suppliers?

2. In cases of unplanned market withdrawal – can a similar process be implemented if there is sufficient market demand?

3. In the case of the loss of key parts of a supply chain, with no interest from an OEM to requalify a supplier, is there a way for a cooperative program to be initiated to find an alternative supplier?

All of these initiatives would require a clear statement of need from the (European) customer base, both in terms of general principles and in identifying key areas where supply chain reconstruction was believed to be required.

It would also be essential to have the support of equipment OEMs – allowing a controlled transfer of information where it was seen to be beneficial, or at least not negative, to all concerned.

Finally, a vibrant “secondary” supplier base must be willing to take on the challenges posed by the customer base and OEMs.

How to get involved

To launch the program, SEMI SEA SIG will organize a first meeting of interested parties Q3 2016 in Europe.

Discussions will focus on defining the common challenges where there is room for cooperation across the supply chain.

Join these discussions to voice your views and help shape this program.

Get in touch with SEMI if you are active in the secondary market for manufacturing equipment, as a capital equipment OEM, a component supplier, a customer or a secondary market operator.

SEMI contact

Ms Rania Georgoutsakou
Director Public Policy, SEMI Europe

gourania@semi.org
+32 2 609 5334
www.semi.org