

Opticon Group
Industrial Area of Tripolis
Block #07 22-100 Tripolis
Peloponnesus, Greece
www.opticon-group.eu

ThetaMetrisis
14, Polydefkous str.
122 43 Athens
Attica, Greece
www.thetametrisis.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opticon Group partners with ThetaMetrisis to develop, high-end metrology tools for Thin Film Coating Thickness variation control

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With optical storage and generic laser lithography applications continuing to push data density and pattern complexity bar higher, substrate flatness and spin-coating tight process control is becoming essential to successful manufacturing and increased yields.

Until recently Thin Film Thickness Variation (TF-TV) control was carried out off-line/off-site during process setup and on troubleshooting cases (usually with destructive measurement methods). Daily production was trusted to equipment stability and wide process windows, while the elevated costs of the needed measurement equipment was pushing TF-TV control into the 'luxury' QC realm.

With coating thickness variation tolerances approaching single-digit nanometer values and directly effecting production yield, Opticon's extensive experience in thin film laser processing is combined with Thetametrisis' White Light Reflectance Spectrometry technology to develop 'TFTV-nano': an in-line/cost effective tool for Thin Film Thickness Variation Control.

'We target in developing tools that will enable process engineers to measure in-line TF-TV profiles with nanometer resolution for a price that will be possible to depreciate out of yield improvements in a year' said Angelakos, CEO of Opticon.

'WLRs has already proved capable to monitor in real time Thin Film Thickness changes in the sub-nanometer regime. Through collaboration with Opticon, this technology is adapted in a highly demanding industrial environment aiming at optimization of the coating process of polymeric layers through spin coating' added Raptis, R&D manager of ThetaMetrisis.

TFTV-nano is jointly developed by the two companies and is already in late alpha-testing phase. Proof-of-concept prototype will be deployed to Opticon facilities in Tripolis/Greece within Q4/2012.

About Opticon

Using a mix of high technology equipment from established suppliers with a number of in-house developed processes, Opticon currently runs the most energy efficient, environmentally friendly and lower cost/unit Blu-ray mastering production line in Europe.

The company also actively works in expanding its product and services portfolio in other applications related to its Thin Film Laser Processing technology and nano-manufacturing expertise.

About ThetaMetrisis

ThetaMetrisis design & manufacture a wide range of turn-key optoelectronic characterization tools and holistic solutions for a wide spectrum of diverse applications, such as: semiconductors, organic electronics, polymers, paints and coatings, photovoltaics, biosensing.