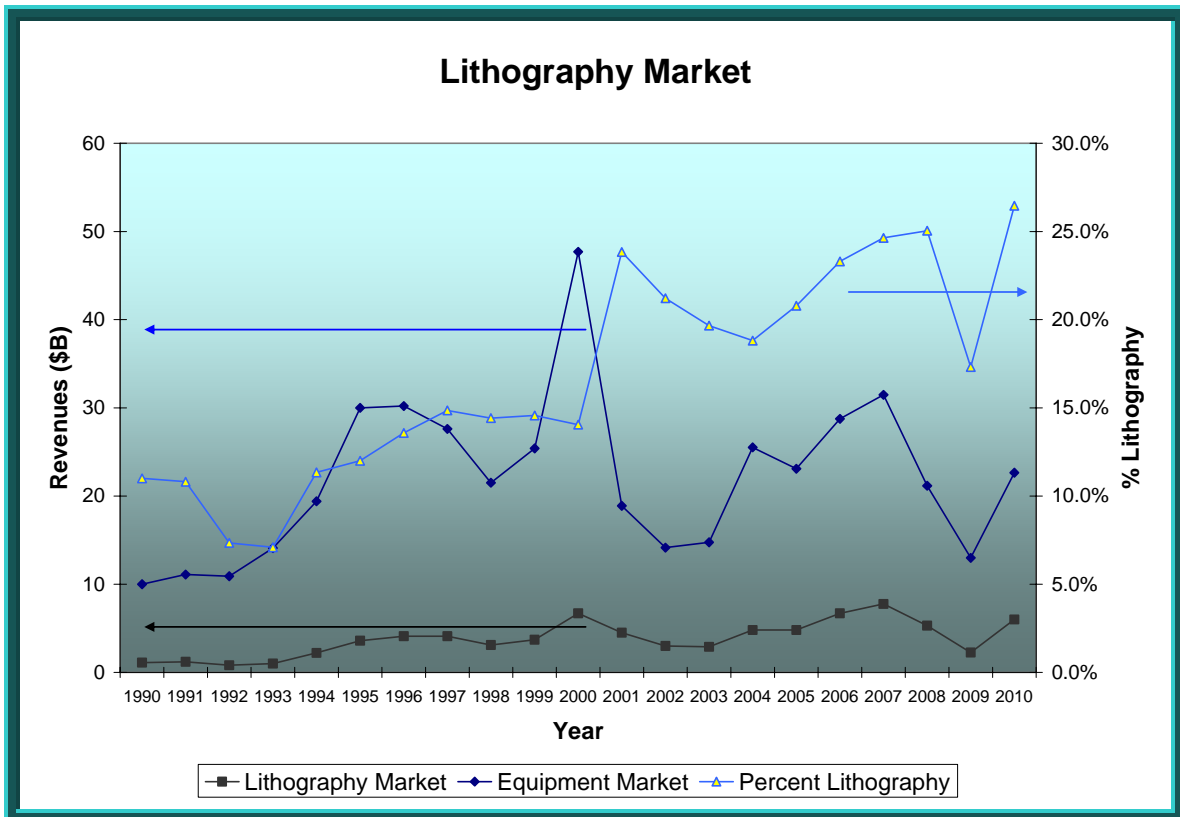




Lithography Back on Track as Dominant Semiconductor Equipment Sector Says The Information Network

New Tripoli, PA, January 6, 2011 . . . After a plunge to 16% of the semiconductor equipment market in 2009, the lithography sector surged in 2010 to a 26.5% share of the global market, according to the report [The Global Market for Equipment and Materials for IC Manufacturing](#), recently published by **The Information Network** (www.theinformationnet.com), a New Tripoli, PA-based market research company.



“While the rest of the semiconductor front-end equipment grew on the order of 107% in 2010, our preliminary estimates based on anticipated Q4 shipments are that the lithography sector grew 165% to revenues close to \$6 billion,” noted Dr. Robert N. Castellano, president of The Information Network.

Irrational exuberance on the part of DRAM (and other) manufacturers in purchases of immersion DUV lithography tools was the key factor. Immersion 248nm tools cost \$42 million each versus \$27 million for dry 248nm and \$5 million for 1-line equipment.

"In our opinion, Samsung was the major culprit in the excessive purchases, and today there is a report the company will reduce capex 14% in 2011," added Dr. Castellano. "We've stated some months ago that we anticipate pushouts in immersion tool shipments in Q4 2010."

The report notes that overall shipments of lithography tools will increase 87% in 2010, but immersion tool shipments will increase 148%.

Because of the exemplary performance by ASML, where they won the immersion war with Nikon, ASML will increase its share of the lithography market to 59.5% in 2010 on a unit basis, up from 44.7% in 2009. On a revenue basis, ASML will increase its share from 61.2% in 2009 to 77.8% in 2010. ASML's share of the immersion DUV tool will settle in at an 88.9% share.

The Information Network is a leading consulting and market research company addressing the semiconductor, LCD, HDD, nano, and solar industries.

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