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Sono-Tek to Show Automated Ultrasonic Photoresist Coating System with New Post-Coat Soft-Bake Heat Plate at SEMICON West

New integrated heat plate option reduces photoresist drying time at the coating station to improve wafer-processing throughput

Milton, NY — September 2026 — Sono-Tek Corporation (Nasdaq: SOTK), a pioneer in ultrasonic spray fluxing technology and a leading manufacturer of precision ultrasonic coating solutions, announced today that it will highlight its SPT200WS automated ultrasonic photoresist coating system with a new dedicated post-coat soft-bake heat plate option at SEMICON West, October 13-15, 2026, at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. The system will be exhibited in Sono-Tek Booth 468.

The SPT200WS combines Sono-Tek's precision ultrasonic spray-coating technology with automated wafer handling for semiconductor applications, including MEMS and wafers with deep-well or other challenging topographies. The system supports 100, 150 and 200 mm wafers, with a 300 mm configuration available.

The new post-coat heat plate is designed to increase system throughput by separating the photoresist coating and drying processes. After a wafer is coated inside the SPT200 coating module, the automated wafer handler transfers it to the dedicated heat plate for a controlled post-coat bake.

Previously, the coated wafer could remain on the heated chuck inside the coating station for an extended period while the photoresist dried. With the new option, the post-coat soft bake takes place at a separate station, freeing the coating module to begin processing the next wafer sooner. This parallel-processing approach can reduce overall cycle time and increase wafer throughput without sacrificing coating consistency or process control.

The automated process includes:

1. Retrieving a wafer from the cassette
2. Transferring the wafer to the pre-alignment station
3. Loading the aligned wafer into the ultrasonic coating module

4. Applying photoresist while the wafer is positioned on the heated vacuum chuck
5. Transferring the coated wafer to the new post-coat heat plate for a controlled soft bake
6. Returning the completed wafer to the cassette

Sono-Tek's ultrasonic nozzles produce highly controllable spray patterns at very low flow rates and can reduce photoresist consumption by up to 90% compared with conventional coating methods. The non-clogging nozzle technology is particularly effective for applying uniform coatings over complex three-dimensional features that can be difficult to cover using traditional spin-coating processes.

"The new post-coat soft back heat plate expands the SPT200WS into a more efficient, higher-throughput production platform," said Brian Booth, VP, Sales & Business at Sono-Tek Corporation. "By moving the drying step outside the coating module, customers can make better use of the coating station and process more wafers in a given period of time. It is a practical automation enhancement designed around the needs of production-scale semiconductor manufacturing."

SEMICON West attendees can see the SPT200WS, its new post-coat heat plate and the automated wafer-handling sequence in operation at Sono-Tek Booth 468, October 13-15, 2026. Visitors can also learn more about Sono-Tek's ultrasonic coating solutions for photoresist, advanced packaging, MEMS and other semiconductor applications.

For more information, visit www.sono-tek.com or www.sprayfluxing.com.

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About Sono-Tek Corporation
Sono-Tek is the world leader in the development and application of liquid ultrasonic atomization technology into nozzle systems and spraying and coating application systems. Compared to conventional pressure spraying methods, the company's ultrasonic nozzles do not clog, reduce liquid usage, waste, and environmental impact while achieving much more precise, uniform, thin film coatings. Sono-Tek is continually developing new applications for its unique technology, replacing wasteful practices in a world that is growing ever more environmentally sensitive. For more information, visit the company at www.sono-tek.com.