

## **AdAstra and Earlybird Invest € 4m in Semiconductor Equipment Specialist ASYNTIS GmbH**

Munich, Germany – September 2, 2003 – ASYNTIS GmbH, a supplier of plasma etch equipment for semiconductor manufacturing, today announced that it has raised € 4 million in a second round of financing. The round was led by AdAstra with participation from existing investor Earlybird. Dr. Karl Lamprecht, Investment Director at AdAstra, joined the Board of Directors.

Dr. Berthold Kegel, CEO and co-founder of ASYNTIS GmbH, emphasized the importance of receiving venture funding to expand the ASYNTIS business “We are very happy to gain AdAstra as a hands-on investor with a solid understanding of the semiconductor business and to see a step up in the commitment of funds from Earlybird. After successful completion of the first two product lines we are using the funds for further expansion of our product portfolio and rapid penetration of the target markets for our proven technology. Based on first successes, the investment will help us achieve a leadership position in plasma processing for the fast growing Thin Wafer market.”

Roland Busch, Director Sales and founder of ASYNTIS GmbH, is convinced that the current product line SILICON STAR 8” and the shortly available product line SILICON STAR 12” will quickly gain market share in this fast growing market “Compared to existing technologies, our innovative dry etch process provides significant improvements in production yields, while at the same time reducing the total cost of ownership. The ASYNTIS technology accomplishes an easy integration of our equipment into existing production lines”.

Dr. Karl Lamprecht, Investment Director at AdAstra, believes in the strengths of ASYNTIS. “The ongoing trend for semiconductors towards higher device integration is putting increasing pressure on package design and manufacturing. Package level system integration, with several stacked dies in one package, is the most cost effective way to maximize the active silicon area in an single IC package. ASYNTIS has breakthrough process technology enabling industry-scale production of package level systems at a much lower cost level than competing technologies. In addition ASYNTIS outstanding management team has decades of experience and proven track records in the semiconductor and plasma industry as well as excellent long-term relationships in the semiconductor marketplace.”

Dr. Hendrik Brandis, Partner at Earlybird, is convinced that ASYNTIS is very well positioned to capture this growth opportunity. “ASYNTIS has substantially developed since the first financing round. The company has completed development of the first two product lines. Successful evaluation activities as well as generation of first revenues show strong demand for ASYNTIS process technology in the market place. After focusing on process stability and equipment design in the last year, everything is at hand now to establish ASYNTIS as the preferred Thin Wafer equipment supplier. Based on the superior process technology and the experienced leadership team, ASYNTIS has an unmatched starting point to achieve the leadership position in its fast growing market segment.”

**About ASYNTIS GmbH:**

ASYNTIS, based in Putzbrunn-Solalinden, Germany with sales partners in South East Asia, is a supplier of leading-edge process technologies for semiconductor manufacturing. ASYNTIS was founded in 2001. The company's innovative solutions combine latest plasma etch technologies with outstanding process competence. The first product, a fully automated stress relief system, allows for dramatic yield improvements e.g. in the production of thin chips, while at the same time keeping investments into process equipment and disposal techniques at a minimum. The company's turn-key equipment is marketed to the semiconductor backend processing industry. Further targets are in solar cell and MEMS production. Additional information regarding ASYNTIS can be found at <http://www.ASYNTIS.com>.

For further information regarding ASYNTIS GmbH, please contact:

Dr. Berthold Kegel  
Keferloher Str. 19a  
85640 Putzbrunn-Solalinden  
Tel.: +49-89-189 445-0  
Fax: +49-89-189 445-66  
[bert.kegel@asyntis.com](mailto:bert.kegel@asyntis.com)  
[www.ASYNTIS.com](http://www.ASYNTIS.com)

**About AdAstra:**

AdAstra is a Munich-based independent venture capital firm with €100 million under management. Founded in June 2000, AdAstra is targeting later stage high-growth and technology-oriented companies in information technology, telecommunication and high-tech industries. As a sparring partner to its portfolio companies, AdAstra provides permanent support through its experienced and inter-disciplinary management team as well as the vast contact network of its lead investor HypoVereinsbank, Germany's second largest bank. Investments include SuSE Linux AG, Trados Inc., bäurer GmbH, ASK S.A., asknet AG, web2CAD AG, IHB Internationale Holzbörse GmbH. Additional information regarding AdAstra can be found at <http://www.adastra.de>.

For further information regarding AdAstra, please contact:

Sandra Nagy  
Theatinerstr. 8,  
80333 Munich  
Tel.: +49-89-2080 229-0  
Fax: +49-40-2080 229-9  
[Sandra.nagy@adastra.de](mailto:Sandra.nagy@adastra.de)  
[www.adastra.de](http://www.adastra.de)

**About Earlybird:**

Earlybird is an international venture capital fund with approximately \$300 million under management and an investment focus on information technology, software, communications and healthcare. With offices in Europe (Hamburg, Munich) and the US (Palo Alto), Earlybird is well positioned to take advantage of international opportunities and to assist its portfolio companies in gaining access to the international market place and financial resources. Earlybird's investment professionals have extensive finance and start-up operating experience, providing pro-active support to their portfolio companies. In addition, an experienced network of industry specialists serve on the Earlybird advisory board, assisting Earlybird and its portfolio companies by providing strategic advice and operational support. Additional information regarding Earlybird can be found at <http://www.earlybird.com>.

For further information regarding Earlybird, please contact:

Daniela von Wedel  
Van-der-Smissen-Str. 3,  
22767 Hamburg  
Tel.: +49-40-4329 41-0  
Fax: +49-40-4329 41-29  
[vonwedel@earlybird.com](mailto:vonwedel@earlybird.com)  
[www.earlybird.com](http://www.earlybird.com)