

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ridgetop Group Delivers ProChek-R™ Test Equipment to Dialog Semiconductor

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ProChek-R Benchtop, Test Card, & Test Coupon

Dialog Semiconductor, a leading fabless manufacturer of integrated circuits (ICs) for consumer and automotive applications, recently took delivery of a ProChek-R system from Ridgetop Group, Inc. (Ridgetop). ProChek is an advanced semiconductor process reliability characterization system that measures reliability parameters significantly faster and more accurately and economically than traditional methods. Dialog is employing ProChek-R to examine and help mitigate fabrication process effects that have the potential to adversely affect product performance and reliability.

ProChek-R characterizes process reliability using precision measurement and data collection instruments that are embedded in the benchtop tester and using a test card, which holds a “test coupon” (test chip). Key ProChek test coupon innovations – such as an on-chip switching matrix to address hundreds or thousands of test structures, and

on-chip heaters to rapidly generate localized temperatures of up to 300 °C – simultaneously accelerate the testing process by an order of magnitude and enable the use of Ridgetop's low-cost system instead of expensive racks of discrete instruments or automated test equipment (ATE).

Dialog purchased a complete ProChek-R package, which includes the ProChek benchtop instrument and operating software, plus a ProChek test coupon design license. This license allows Dialog to design and manufacture its own test coupons compatible with the ProChek benchtop test system and that embed Ridgetop's control mechanisms. The design of the test coupon is standardized and can be ported to various fabrication processes with minimum expense. A single test coupon can comprise different types and sizes of transistors, vias, and other semiconductor devices, and yield data concerning degradation effects including NBTI/PBTI (negative/positive bias temperature instability), TDDB (time-dependent dielectric breakdown), EM (electromigration), and more.

About Ridgetop Group, Inc.

Established in 2000, Ridgetop Group is a Tucson, Arizona-based firm that produces electronic solutions for harsh environments and challenging applications. The firm is qualified as an aerospace supplier under its AS9100C certification, and became a Category 1A Trusted Supplier under the DOD's Trusted Foundry Program in 2010. A privately held firm, Ridgetop operates two divisions in Tucson, and has a related subsidiary firm based in Europe. For further information, please visit our website at www.ridgetopgroup.com or contact information@ridgetopgroup.com.

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