



PRESS RELEASE

NIKKO MATERIALS RECIPIENT OF INTEL SUPPLIER CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (SCQI) AWARD

Tokyo, Japan March 21, 2006

Nikko Materials Co., Ltd., was named a recipient of Intel Corporation's prestigious 2005 Supplier Continuous Quality Improvement (SCQI) award, Intel's highest honor for its suppliers, for outstanding commitment to quality and performance by suppliers that provide products and services deemed essential to Intel's success. The company was given the award for its efforts in supplying Intel with metal targets for PVD. Nikko Materials Co., Ltd. and 11 additional SCQI award winners will be honored at a celebration in Burlingame, California on March 21.

"It is an honor to be named a recipient of the Supplier Continuous Quality Improvement Award for our high purity sputtering targets and our continuous service to Intel," said Isao Yamanashi, president and CEO of Nikko Materials Co., Ltd. "We have continued earnestly to meet Intel's state-of-the-art technologies, and this Award confirms our ceaseless efforts for improvement and attention to customer satisfaction."

"Nikko Materials has executed flawlessly in development, ramp, and HVM of target materials by leading target technology development, adopting the quality incident free culture, and continuously improving total cost of ownership," said Cari Shim Director of Fab Materials, Intel Corporation. "We are proud to award Nikko Materials with Intel's Supplier Continuous Quality Improvement award for their performance in 2005."

The SCQI awards are part of Intel's Supplier Continuous Quality Improvement process, which encourages Intel's key suppliers to strive for excellence and continuous improvement. To qualify for SCQI status, suppliers must score at least 95 percent on a report card that assesses performance and ability to meet cost, quality, availability, delivery, technology and responsiveness goals. Additional information about the SCQI program is available at <http://supplier.intel.com/quality>.

Intel also will recognize SCQI award winners on March 21, 2006, with an advertisement in the U.S., Europe and Asian editions of the Wall Street Journal.

About Nikko Materials Co., Ltd.

Nikko Materials enjoys a large global market share within the sputtering target, compound semiconductor material, and copper foil markets. As a leading supplier of sputtering targets, Nikko Materials manufactures high purity targets not only for semiconductors, but also leading edge electronic products such as flat panel displays, data storage devices, and optical media. Nikko Materials supports customers globally through sales offices worldwide. In April 2006, Nikko will absorb its sister company of world-class copper metal business and integrate its non-ferrous metal business activities from upstream to down stream. Nikko is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan and is a part of Nippon Mining Holdings, which has core enterprises involved in petroleum, non-ferrous metals, and electronic materials.

Please visit nikkmaterials.com for more information.