OPTIMAX INKS SUPPLIER DEAL WITH CHINA’S SMEE

Multi-year agreement will bring 50 new manufacturing jobs to Upstate New York

[Ontario, New York]—Optimax Systems, Inc. today announced that it had signed a multi-year preferred supplier deal with Shanghai Micro-Electronics Equipment Co., Ltd. (SMEE: www.smee.com.cn). The signing was memorialized in the White House Fact Sheet on trade deliverables organized as part of a Joint Communique issued during the bilateral summit meetings between US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao (see: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/19/fact-sheet-us-china-commercial-relations ). The deal is expected to bring 50 new high-quality manufacturing jobs to Optimax’s Upstate New York facilities.

“Optimax is pleased to have been selected as the preferred supplier of precision optics to SMEE,” said Mike Mandina, President of Optimax. “Optimax is part of the reason that the US still leads the world in innovations in high-precision optics. SMEE, which is rapidly emerging as China’s premier lithography equipment manufacturer, is one of the visionary new technology companies emerging from China. By working together, we can create new products that will complement rather than compete with the US-based semi-conductor industry.”

“This deal proves the potential for truly win-win trade between the US and China,” added Optimax CEO Rick Plympton. “To supply this new market, we plan to add at least 50 jobs to our Ontario, New York facility in the next 2-3 years, as part of a US $4 million facility expansion. This follows a $2 million equipment acquisition already completed to support business that we have committed with SMEE.”

Plympton added “We appreciate the support shown to our company and to this deal by the US government inclusion of Optimax. This follows on the support we received from then-Senator Hillary Clinton’s office in support of our workforce development needs. We are pleased that this government good will has helped us grow as an effective commercial enterprise, so we in turn can continue to invest in our people, and our community.”

“SMEE is happy to have found in Optimax the partner we were looking for to supply the ultra-high-precision optics that our products demand,” said SMEE President He Rongming. “Their dedication to quality and flexible approach to problem-solving give us confidence that we can work together to achieve our mutual aims for growth.”

Optimax has been supplying optical components to SMEE on an ad hoc basis for its stepper machines. Under the new agreement, Optimax will continue to supply optics on a preferred supplier status, while also producing ultra-high-precision optical systems for SMEE’s 500-series and 600-series scan projection lithography machines and steppers. Initial purchase orders have been issued and production is underway.

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