

MaskShop: A Software Tool for Backend Reticle Manufacturing and Defect Pattern Analysis

Union City, California, USA - December 24th, 2008 - Building on its software, image processing and lithography expertise, Reticle Labs has announced the release of **MaskShop**, a first in a series of design-for-manufacturing software tools currently under development. MaskShop is custom image processing software for quantifying post and pre-repaired defect patterns found on reticles (masks), eliminating guess work while simultaneously streamlining and expediting the repair process. MaskShop is compatible with the most commonly used imaging systems found in a semiconductor mask fabrication facility.

With shrinking mask features, complicated OPC patterns, and various resolution enhancement techniques, the patterns found on current masks exhibit complex shapes and geometries. There is a pressing need to quantify shapes and patterns found on masks in two or three dimensions, simply, robustly and accurately.

MaskShop is an image processing software tool developed for analyzing images and is targeted for the high end Mask fabrication house. It can accurately quantify the pattern mismatches in pre and post repaired defect images to a resolution far beyond the pixel size of the imaging system. It is particularly suited for aerial images obtained via a microscope, an inspection system, or simulation software.

Furthermore, it can overlay images obtained across different sources making it ideal for comparing the performance of an aerial microscope against a simulation tool or an inspection system. MaskShop is capable of analyzing features found in double patterning processes, provided the right inputs are available.

MaskShop has been designed with the end user in mind, exhibiting a rich user experience. Written using the latest .Net technology with specialized image processing algorithms, MaskShop has the look and feel of passionately inspired software and sets the standard for metrology applications. Now you can identify, overlay, and measure pre and post repaired defect images with just a few clicks.

Reticle Labs

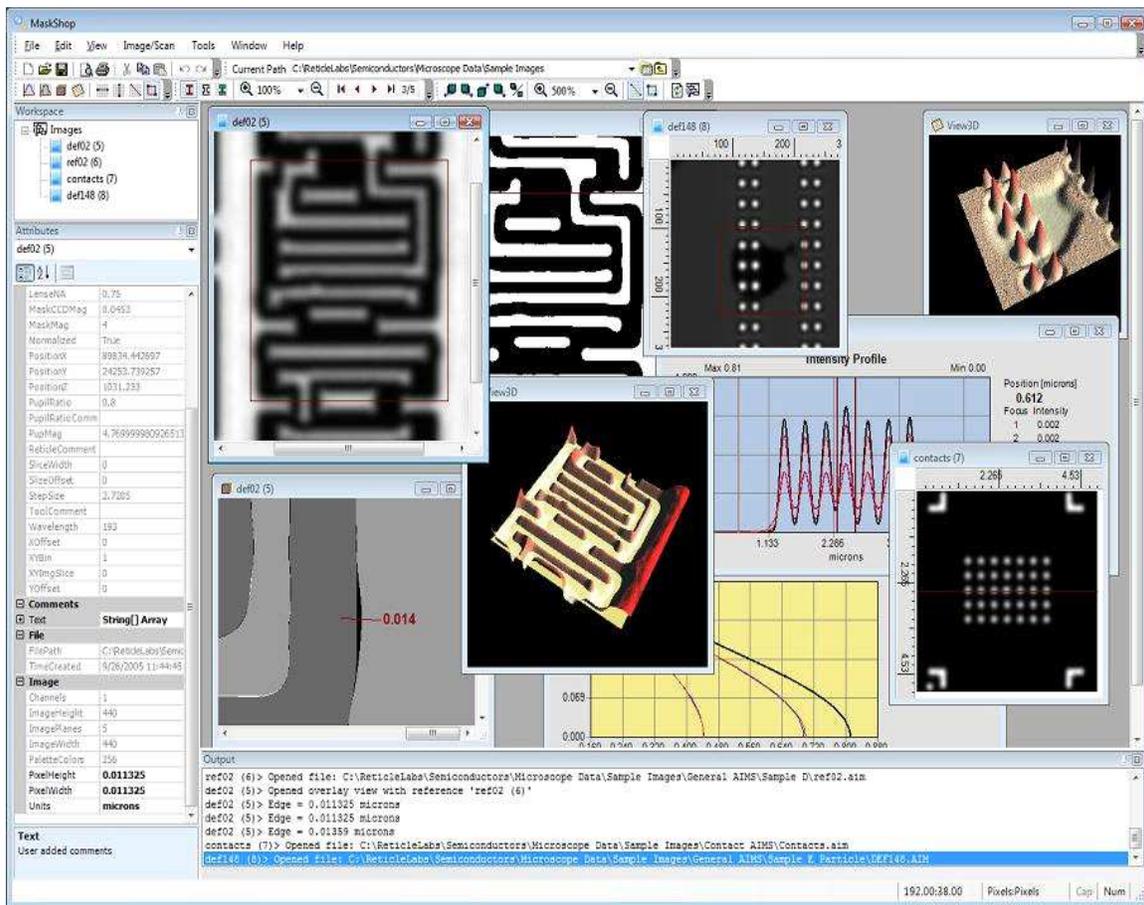
Bridging Physics, Mathematics & Software

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You can save the results for later viewing, paste into a presentation, or print a hard copy. Ideal for the production environment or as a stand alone engineering tool, MaskShop can help take the guess work out of image analysis, and speed up the process flow.

MaskShop is now available for evaluation by Wafer and Mask fabrication facilities.



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About Reticle Labs

Reticle Labs is a consulting firm that specializes in image processing, software development and engineering analysis. Located twenty minutes from the heart of Silicon Valley, Reticle Labs has been developing software and automation solutions to aid in the manufacturing processes for the semiconductor and storage industry. Reticle Labs develops software; perform analysis and consults in a wide range of industrial applications that require strong analytical skills in engineering physics, mathematics, computer simulation, graphics, databases and complex algorithm development.