ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPLIED MATERIALS TO CREATE 'MATERIALS-TO-FAB' CENTER

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More than $270 million in corporate and state investment will help advance Arizona's semiconductor industry

TEMPE, Ariz. and SANTA CLARA, Calif., July 11, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Arizona State University (ASU) and Applied Materials, Inc. today announced an alliance, aided by the Arizona Commerce Authority, that brings more than $270 million to create a world-class shared research, development and prototyping facility, the Materials-to-Fab (MTF) Center, in the university's MacroTechnology Works building at ASU Research Park.

The MTF Center will be designed to accelerate the transfer of innovations from ideation to fab prototype by bringing state-of-the-art semiconductor manufacturing equipment into a collaborative ASU and Applied Materials environment to work with industry partners, startups, government entities and academic institutions. The MTF Center will provide students and faculty with opportunities for hands-on learning and research on the same 300mm equipment used in leading-edge production fabs.

Applied Materials is the world's largest provider of semiconductor manufacturing equipment. The company in May announced plans to build the Equipment and Process Innovation and Commercialization (EPIC) Center in California's Silicon Valley. The EPIC Center is planned as the heart of a high-velocity innovation platform that includes a network of hubs at leading universities, each focused on materials and process innovation. The new MTF Center will be home to Applied's Center of Excellence in materials deposition technology.

"Applied Materials and ASU already enjoy a close partnership, and this new alliance around the Materials-to-Fab Center will take things to a new level," said ASU President Michael Crow. "But what is more important than the partnership is what it will do for the industry and the country. This is the beginning of a reconfiguration of discovery and translational research outcomes in response to real-world challenges and the development of next-generational processes, materials, equipment and workforce."

"Applied Materials is excited to build upon our successful track record of collaboration with ASU by adding the Materials-to-Fab Center to our university innovation network," said Applied Materials President and CEO Gary Dickerson. "Applied Materials envisions the MTF Center playing a key role in accelerating materials engineering innovations, commercializing academic research and strengthening the pipeline of future semiconductor industry talent."

Design of the MTF Center has already begun and is expected to be operational within two years. The MTF Center is supported by investments of $30 million from the Arizona Commerce Authority, $17 million from ASU and $25 million in Arizona New Economy Initiative funding and bonds. Applied Materials' contributions are anticipated to exceed $200 million including capital investments, equipment operation and maintenance, and research and scholarship funding.

To build an inclusive talent pipeline, Applied Materials also intends to launch an endowment fund that will provide scholarships to first-generation and/or underrepresented minority students in the ASU Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. In addition, the Applied Materials Momentum Fund will be available to students at ASU, and provide grants to women pursuing undergraduate degrees in engineering, helping to overcome potential financial barriers and accelerating access to careers in the semiconductor industry.

"High-quality universities are one of America's greatest advantages in the global competition for semiconductor manufacturing, research and development," said Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs. "What Applied Materials and ASU are doing is smart, and the successful implementation of the Materials-to-Fab Center will establish an innovation and job creation engine for the semiconductor ecosystem in Arizona."

Arizona is one of the nation's key centers of microelectronics activity – home to some of the nation's leading semiconductor producers and suppliers, major defense contractors, world-class universities, research institutes and a vibrant start-up community. The MTF Center will be an asset to small and large companies across the state and the Southwest region and a key capability for connecting ongoing investments in research and manufacturing. It will provide a nexus for academic-industry collaboration in support of the objectives of the federal CHIPS and Science Act.

"The MTF Center will accelerate the development, commercialization, and manufacturing of next-generation U.S. semiconductor-based technologies while bolstering the state's infrastructure, workforce, and research capabilities," said Sandra Watson, President and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority. "We're proud to play a leading role supporting this first-of-its-kind alliance between one of the world's leading semiconductor technology companies and America's most innovative university."

"ASU and Applied Materials have created a foundation of collaboration and we have already seen its value," said Crow. "What this alliance will do is expand impact, deliver the mechanisms for finding new ways of doing things and, if we are successful, yield results that we can use to innovate again. This is work that is never finished, so as exciting as it is to be where we are today, you can expect to hear more from us on this front in the future, and we encourage others to take this model and replicate it."

About Arizona State University
Arizona State University has developed a new model for the American Research University, creating an institution that is committed to access, excellence and impact. ASU measures itself by those it includes, not by those it excludes. As the prototype for a New American University, ASU pursues research that contributes to the public good, and ASU assumes major responsibility for the economic, social and cultural vitality of the communities that surround it. Learn more about ASU here.

About the Arizona Commerce Authority

The Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) is the state's leading economic development organization with a streamlined mission to grow and strengthen Arizona's economy. The ACA uses a three-pronged approach to advance the overall economy: attract, expand, create - attract out-of-state companies to establish operations in Arizona; work with existing companies to expand their business in Arizona and beyond; and help entrepreneurs create new Arizona businesses in targeted industries. For more information, please visit azcommerce.com and follow the ACA on Twitter @azcommerce.

About Applied Materials
Applied Materials, Inc. (Nasdaq: AMAT) is the leader in materials engineering solutions used to produce virtually every new chip and advanced display in the world. Our expertise in modifying materials at atomic levels and on an industrial scale enables customers to transform possibilities into reality. At Applied Materials, our innovations make possible a better future. Learn more at www.appliedmaterials.com.

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