

PRESS RELEASE

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

Novx Develops a Proactive Body and Ground Monitor with Current Detection

Company Introduces a New Generation of Body and Ground Monitors

October 2002, San Jose, Calif. -- Novx Corporation, a leading supplier of ESC/ESD-related monitoring instruments and its associated Multiplexing and Process Environment Monitoring System (PEMS), has introduced the Series 350 Digital Monitor. The Series 350 represents a new generation of workstation and process equipment monitors to replace the Series 300 to meet the needs of emerging technologies in many industries. By listening to customer concerns regarding operator monitoring, Novx has developed a body current detection (patent-pending) technology. The exciting new (single-wire) technology allows the customer the flexibility to eliminate the applied voltage and optional in-line resistance always required using existing technologies to protect the operator while monitoring their performance. This has to-date, limited the minimum achievable level of voltage control in relation to the operator. This new current detection technology requires no voltage on the operator and brings the resulting control limits between the operator and the product they are working on to much lower levels. The Series 350 is a microprocessor-based monitoring instrument capable of body voltage or current detection and ground monitoring configured to have alarm levels set via a PC interface. The instrument is designed with a modular construction allowing the user to add optional plug-in features as needed. The plug-in modules include digital I/O communication adding a direct interface to Multiplexing or PEMS, body voltage or current and ground monitoring. The combination of hardware and software allows the user to monitor, analyze and control processes 24/7 365 days a year.

The instrument represents a direct response to strategic customer communication that defines their process requirements for ESC/ESD-related monitoring for today and tomorrow's processes. The digital I/O communication plug-in module provides a proactive function when interfaced to Multiplexing or PEMS to receive and report warning or alarm conditions to control the process. Also, reduce process variations, decrease scrap/rework and improve process yields at the specific workstation level. This helps to improve process yields and increase tool availability with the end result being increased factory capacity. Utilizing the Series 350 will result in a much more accurate way of evaluating and reporting operator and tool performance and complements our complete line of ESC/ESD and environmental sensors.

Features

- Digital I/O Communication
- Remote Monitoring and Proactive Control
- Microprocessor Based Real-time Data Capture
- Body Voltage or Current Detection
- Dual-channel Ground Monitoring
- User-Friendly Operator Interface
- Plug-and-play Process Modules
- User-Programmable Alarm Set-points
- Unsurpassed Performance
- Maximum Flexibility

About Novx Corporation

Novx founded in 1989, is a leading provider of workstation/process equipment monitors and process environment management solutions. The company provides products and services to the semiconductor, storage device, flat panel display, electronics manufacturing services, medical and many other industries.

Novx customers use its products and services to monitor electrostatic charge, and the process environment, thereby; improving manufacturing yields, finished product quality, and manufacturing equipment performance. The shrinking geometries of today's electronic devices place greater importance on knowing what is happening within your processes. Novx hardware and software solutions make this possible, reliable and affordable. Novx assists customers in achieving higher productivity levels by mitigating the adverse effects of Electrostatic Discharge (ESD), Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Electrostatic Attraction (ESA) from the manufacturing environment. The introduction of the Series 350,

communicating directly with PEMS, Novx can now supply the complete environmental monitoring solution, thereby reducing scrap and improving product quality in any manufacturing environment.

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