Q & A

CASCADE MICROTECH

Innovating Test Technologies®

Wavevue Measurement Studio™ Software for On-Wafer Device Characterization

Why is Cascade Microtech introducing this offering?

A vacuum in standard microwave test and data management software exists that is often remedied with ad hoc solutions that are difficult to expand or support. Wavevue provides microwave engineers with a platform that is powerful, yet flexible enough to use immediately and customize to any extent, to rapidly increase productivity. This offering is an important addition to Cascade Microtech's suite of RF test solutions.

What is Wavevue?

Wavevue is a powerful software package that integrates the microwave measurement hardware necessary to characterize RF semiconductor devices and share these results. Wavevue drives Cascade Microtech wafer probing systems, leading network analyzers, bias supplies, and other instruments that gather data. This includes S-parameter data management and parameter transformations, DC bias control and many plotting functions. Wavevue has enough flexibility and features for the advanced characterization engineer, yet is intuitive enough for less experienced operators.

Wavevue is designed to significantly increase the productivity of characterization engineers, while at the same time, greatly improve the return-on-investment RF semiconductor companies must make in wafer-based test systems.

What is Enterprise Vision™ architecture for Wavevue?

What are the Wavevue Instrument and Office Editions?

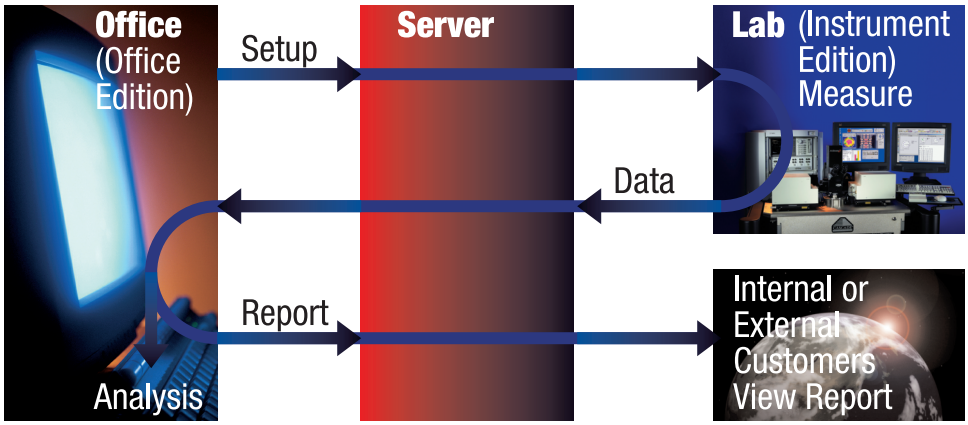
There are two different editions of Wavevue that formulate the Enterprise Vision™ architecture. Wavevue Instrument ensures that equipment in the lab can continually perform measurements at the test station, while Wavevue Office handles the tasks of analyzing test data and creating setups for future tests at the desktop. Test configurations and setups move from the desktop to the test equipment and test results, then return to the desktop for evaluation and report generation – freeing up the test equipment immediately and making it available for other engineers to run their device-specific tests.

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The following flow chart demonstrates how a team can cooperatively share tasks using Wavevue Instrument Edition and Office Edition.



How does Wavevue help RF semiconductor companies meet their strategic objectives?

Implementation of Wavevue and its networked architecture, combined with Cascade's leading-edge test system capabilities, provides RF semiconductor companies with:

- significantly improved characterization engineering productivity
- improved asset utilization
- the most advanced test system capability available

All of these factors contribute to reduce a manufacturer's time-to-market of next generation chips.

How does Wavevue assist productivity of the Test Engineering staff?

The project-based user environment encourages the concentration and coordination of test activities (planning, design, measurement and analysis). Wavevue test setups ensure correlation of data between separate systems, subsequently reducing modeling and design cycle time. The result is substantial cost and time savings. This also results in increased accuracy and measurement repeatability.

Wavevue's flexible and instant report generation brings increased productivity in application data workflow.

The Wavevue modular architecture reduces cost of ownership and protects long-term investment by offering future expandability. The consistent user interface for multiple test types reduces training and support requirements.

What is the value of employing Wavevue over writing my own software?

Any heavily used software platform requires support, documentation, expandability, and training. Companies that choose to write their own software must take on the burden of paying for each of these hidden costs and suffer the lost engineering hours and elapsed time.

What kinds of companies would be suited with Wavevue?

Wavevue is well-suited for companies:

- that are looking to increase test hardware productivity or overcome measurement problems
- that want greater test engineering productivity
- have written their own software to integrate their measurement solution due to the lack of a viable commercial alternative, or are struggling with the support costs of their legacy code

What wafer probe stations are supported by Wavevue?

Wavevue can be used with Cascade Microtech's Summit 12000 series or S300 series semiautomatic probe stations or any manual probe station. Wavevue works with both Cascade Microtech's Nucleus prober control software and WinCal™ VNA calibration software.

How does Microvue complement Cascade's test systems offerings?

Wavevue is an integral part of a complete Cascade Microtech test system solution for on-wafer RF device characterization.
This complete solution includes:

- measurement and calibration software integrated on a single system controller
- high performance characterization probes
- full range of probe station options and performance
- turnkey installation, training and a single point of responsibility

A complete test system solution nearly eliminates the RF engineering time wasted in designing, coordinating, locating, assembling and troubleshooting a test system compiled from various disparate equipment and software sources. Now an engineering team can look to Cascade for standard on-wafer RF characterization system solutions that are installed, tested, and ready to use, allowing companies to focus their RF engineering resources on new product introduction.

Who do I contact for more information?

Contact Cascade Microtech. See the contact information at the end of this Q&A. Cascade Microtech is offering a range of value packages for new wafer probing customers as well as upgrade packages for our customer base which will provide seamless integration of this new offering to their existing on-wafer RF test systems. To ensure customer success with these packages, Cascade Microtech is offering full support and at-factory training classes.

Why Cascade and Microvue?

Cascade is the world leader in on-wafer device characterization measurement solutions. Partnering with Microvue brings a significant new offering that provides high value to the device engineering community.

Who is Cascade Microtech?

Cascade Microtech, Inc. is the worldwide leader in providing high frequency and parametric on-wafer test solutions. Engineers use our solutions to test and characterize integrated circuits (ICs) and photonic devices. These devices are then used in semiconductor applications, such as personal computers, servers, cell phones, consumer and automotive electronics, fiber-optics, PDAs, and other wireless products. Cascade Microtech also produces thin-film probe cards for production-level on-wafer testing of fine pitch, high-speed IC devices for broadband communications and networking, wireless and cell phones as well as other market applications. For more information visit www.cascademicrotech.com.

Who is Microvue?

Microvue, Inc., based in North Chelmsford, Massachusetts, develops commercial software, Wavevue Measurement Studio™, and custom hardware solutions for the characterization of RF and microwave devices and components. These devices are typically found in commercial communications devices such as cellular phones, wireless LAN adapters and access points, GPS receivers, and Bluetooth applications. Microvue focuses on providing versatile yet easy-to-use characterization software for design, modeling, process, and applications engineers working in both emerging and mature technologies. Microvue's prior design and device development experience, coupled with a commitment to customer productivity enhancement and support, position it as a unique supplier of characterization solutions. For more information about Microvue, please visit www.microvueinc.com.

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