



## **Media Release**

(all figures in US\$ unless otherwise stated)

# **UTAC strikes alliance with RF designer ARFIC; becomes partner in Singapore's ICommunity consortium**

**SINGAPORE, 14 April 2005** – Singapore Exchange-listed **United Test and Assembly Center Ltd** (“**UTAC**” - SGX: UTAC), a leading solutions provider for semiconductor test and assembly, today announced a strategic alliance with key radio frequency integrated circuit (“RF IC”) design and services company, **Advanced RFIC (S) Pte Ltd** (“**ARFIC**”) of Singapore.

“UTAC recognizes the growing importance of IP Block Providers and Electronics Design Automation (“EDA”) houses in the development of new design concept and to provide silicon-proven solutions to shorten the time-to-market for these new products,” said Mr. CK Tan, Group Vice-President of Corporate Test Development, UTAC.

“The alliance with ARFIC and partnership with ICommunity further establishes UTAC’s strength in test capability and competency. It also enhances UTAC’s position as a world leader for cost-effective test solutions in the wireless market segment,” he continued.

Mr. Andy Wong, President of ARFIC, commented, “UTAC has been instrumental in providing Quad Flat No-Lead (“QFN”) package that meets the RF performance requirements of our fully integrated 2.4GHz ISM Band transceiver. We are pleased with their knowledge and capability in RF testing and are now jointly developing cost-effective Automatic Test Equipment solutions for mass production.”

The alliance will bring ARFIC and UTAC together for IC design, characterization and modeling, turnkey test and assembly capabilities and engineering development. ARFIC will also capitalize on UTAC’s capabilities in turnkey test and assembly services for future IC design and function as the primary vendor for ARFIC’s customers while ARFIC will function to become a recommended vendor for all RF IC design, characterization and modeling to UTAC’s customers.

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The partnership will allow ARFIC to provide an integrated and cost-efficient engineering and manufacturing solution for prototyping and mass production runs to both ARFIC and ARFIC's customers.

Mr. Zainudin Nordin, Manager of Electronics Design Centre, Nanyang Polytechnic, and person in-charge-of ICommunity, said, "ICommunity aims to position Singapore as a leading center for IC Design innovations and one-stop location for IC design enterprises. UTAC's participation as a partner will expand the portfolio of available test and assembly services to our IC Design start-up members, particularly in the area of wireless RF products."

Mr. Lim Swee Nian, Director, Electronics & Precision Engineering of the Singapore Economic Development Board, said, "ICommunity is Singapore's first incubator for the semiconductor industry, and we are pleased that it continues to attract the participation of new partners like UTAC. Going forward, we are confident that ICommunity will strengthen Singapore's position as a one-stop location for IC design enterprises."

UTAC has been a partner of ICommunity consortium since 1st October 2004. As an ICommunity partner, UTAC will make available to fellow members its test and assembly services, including engineering solutions to support prototype test program development for analog mixed signal and RF devices, product characterization and one-stop turnkey solutions.

UTAC is an active participant in ICommunity, especially in the exchange of selected UTAC's test and assembly technologies and know-how on various industry technologies, standards and practices. Such information will be shared for educational basis in UTAC's effort to enhance the knowledge and understanding of Nanyang Polytechnic and members of the ICommunity.

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### About United Test and Assembly Center Ltd (UTAC)

Established in 1997 and listed on the Main Board of the Singapore Exchange, UTAC is a leading independent provider of semiconductor assembly and testing services to its customers, which comprise Integrated Device Manufacturers (“IDMs”), fabless companies and wafer foundries. UTAC provides wafer probing and final testing services on a diverse selection of test platforms for a range of semiconductors including memory, logic, mixed-signal and radio-frequency ICs. Besides testing services, UTAC also provides assembly services for a broad range of leadframe and array packages.

Headquartered in Singapore where it houses its manufacturing, test engineering and package design facilities, UTAC has established a global network of sales offices in the United States, Europe, Japan, Korea and China. It also has wholly-owned subsidiaries in China and Taiwan to provide wafer probing and testing services. For more information, visit [www.utac.com.sg](http://www.utac.com.sg)

### About Advanced RFIC (S) Pte Ltd (ARFIC)

Advanced RFIC (S) Pte Ltd (ARFIC) specializes in the field of RFIC design, semiconductors device characterization & modeling. The company provides one-stop RFIC design services including device characterization, device modeling, RFIC foundry design kit, and RFIC IP integration & technology licensing/RFIC turn key projects. For more information, visit [www.arfic.com](http://www.arfic.com)

### About ICommunity Consortium

The ICommunity is a hub of collaborative partners, with representation from design software, manufacturing, intellectual property (“IP”) management to marketing and funding sectors. The core initiative of this hub is to create a holistic and supportive environment to incubate fabless IC design companies through the provision of market insights, professional training and development, facilitating the creation and management of IP, manufacturing expertise, marketing and funding support.

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