

Interconnect Devices buys Antares' test socket assets

KANSAS CITY, Kan.—After weeks of industry speculation and rumors, IDI confirmed that it has purchased the package test assets, principally test sockets, from Antares Advanced Test Technologies of Vancouver, Wash.

Not included were Antares burn-in socket business and thermal products, which will continue to be operated by the Antares management under the name WELLS-CTI. Antares' load-board business was sold several weeks ago to Synergy CAD.



This Antares BGA test socket now moves to IDI's product line.

The sale price for Antares' package test business was not disclosed. Industry watchers, however, believe IDI paid \$17 million in cash and \$2 million in stock.

Over the past months, according to industry sources, Antares has been on shaky financial ground. Recently, the company began releasing staff.. "The current economic situation was the last nail in the coffin for Antares," an anonymous source told *MicroConnections*.

In a news release dated April 10, IDI said it had completed the acquisition of Antares. The transaction closed April 3, but today was the first public announcement of the sale.

Mike Kirkman, IDI president/CEO, is quoted in the release saying, "IDI welcomes the technology and talented staff of Antares' Package Test group to our growing corporation. We have taken extensive measures to ensure that our agreement will allow us to provide a seamless transition to Antares' customers.

"The addition of the Antares product line combined with the manufacturing facilities in Suzhou, China, and Gilbert, Ariz., will allow the combined company to provide our customers with even greater depth of technological advancement while continuing our legacy of superior product performance and customer service."

Vancouver, Wash-based UMD bought WELLS-CTI several years ago, when the company was in bankruptcy.

Antares' test-socket business originated as OzTek, a Hayward, Calif.-based company, that was first sold to Cerprobe of Gilbert, Ariz.

In 2000, Kulicke & Soffa Industries, the IC wire bonding equipment maker, bought Cerprobe for about \$225 million and made it the flagship of its new Test Products Div. K&S, however, divested its test products in January 2006, with the former Cerprobe spunout in an MBO as Antares. Soon after, it was acquired by UMD.—Ron Iscoff