

Research Notes

Yorktown/Hawthorne/Stormytown/Eastview

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Facilities organizations hold conference in Yorktown

Members of the T. J. Watson Research Center's facilities departments hosted their first "Advanced Facility Fall Conference" Dec. 7-9. The purpose of the conference was to look into the 1990s and identify future facility requirements that will be needed to support the production of IBM's next generation of products.

During the first day of the conference, representatives of facility organizations from Yorktown, Burlington and East Fishkill heard presentations from the Yorktown community. These presentations covered topics such as E-beam lithography, superconductivity, parallel processing, gallium arsenide technology and the activities of the Advanced Silicon Technology Laboratory. The presentations were designed to present the new technologies and identify the role that IBM's facilities will play in the eventual success or failure of these new technologies.

On the second and third days, each location discussed projects and problem areas in the use of high-purity chemicals, gases, deionized water and other process items. The emphasis was on questions relating to defect density control that might contribute to contamination problems in the silicon wafers made in Burlington and East Fishkill. This is part of an ongoing systems defect engineering program.

Despite the ongoing relationship between scientists at these locations, this gathering marked the first time that the facilities employees had an opportunity to see and experience Research.

"One point that we wanted to emphasize is that the work being done here today will be the same work that facilities

at the manufacturing sites will be doing in the next five to seven years," said Phil Matcovich Jr., Yorktown facilities engineering, who organized the three-day meeting.

"We wanted to alert them to some of the problems they may face," Matcovich says. "Manufacturing sites, for example, are typically working on features in the one-micron range, so they were interested in learning how we address problems relating to geometries in the submicron



Phil Matcovich Jr. (left), organizer of the three-day "Advanced Facility Fall Conference," shares a break in the proceedings with other participants. They are (left to right) Larry Green, Arnie Vimba and Henry Lim, all from East Fishkill.

range. Hopefully we provided them with some useful information that can help them prepare for the new technology."

Attendees also learned about a new facilities conferencing disk created by the research center's facilities departments. This electronic bulletin board allows employees from various locations to exchange ideas about advanced facility designs and related subjects.

"This is an important communication tool for the facilities community. It will help identify and solve many of our problems early on," Matcovich said. "Also, the solutions to these problems can be easily shared among the sites. It will help us 'work smarter.'"

Indications are that the participants found the conference useful. "I thought it was valuable for the exchange of information from the different sites," said Arnie Vimba from East Fishkill. Larry Green, also from East Fishkill, agreed. "You get to meet the people and see the tools that they use. It couldn't be any more concrete."

Pat Tivnan from Burlington summed up the conference this way: "It was exciting for us to get a glimpse of IBM's future through the Yorktown researchers. It really helps to put some perspective to the work that we are doing today and helps us intelligently discuss the future."

Now that the first conference has ended, the plan is to make it an annual event and to expand it to include other locations.

"We want to promote more interaction between facilities organizations," Matcovich said, "and we think that this was a good start."