

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THERMONICS ADDS AIR IONIZATION CAPABILITY TO ITS T-2500 SERIES OF PRECISION TEMPERATURE FORCING SYSTEMS

Sunnyvale, CA, USA ----- **Thermonics, Inc.**, the acknowledged leading manufacturer of Precision Temperature Forcing Systems announced today that it has incorporated a thermal air ionization (T-ION) module as a standard feature on its line of T-2500 Precision Temperature Forcing Systems. This advanced feature enhances the product lines' ability to safely test semiconductor devices at cold and hot temperatures by eliminating potential electrostatic discharge (ESD) events.

Electrostatic charges can be caused by dry air being forced onto non-conductive surfaces or an ungrounded conductive surface such as the metal lid on a semiconductor device. The friction of the air on these surfaces can create a triboelectric charge upwards of a thousand volts, triggering an ESD event that is capable of damaging the device under test (DUT).

The air ionizer module, utilizing a corona-based design, adds positive and negative ions to the thermal air stream, neutralizing the formation of the triboelectric charge. The ionizer will also remove any previously existing static charge from the surface, if one is present. Specifically, the ionizer will reduce an existing charge of ± 1500 volts down to ± 20 volts in less than 10 seconds¹. Proprietary, built-in technology ensures the ion balance and eliminates the need for ionizer calibration.

The performance specifications of the Thermonics T-2500 series are not affected by the addition of the T-ION module. Standard features include:

- Temperature range: -100C to +225C
- Fast temperature transition: 4 seconds
- High thermal air flow rates: 1200 SCFH (20 SCFM)
- Advanced graphical user interface (GUI) with touch screen
- GPIB (IEEE-488) remote control capability

The T-2500 series of Precision Temperature Forcing Systems are used for temperature testing of semiconductor devices that include integrated circuits, hybrids, and PCBs. Applications include product characterization, quality assurance, and production testing at temperature.

Thermonics, Inc. designs, manufactures, and markets localized Precision Temperature Forcing Systems for domestic and international semiconductor manufacturers and end users of semiconductor devices. Thermonics is the leader in providing advanced Precision Temperature Forcing Systems utilizing mechanical refrigeration as the cooling mechanism.

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ⁱ Testing for compliance was performed with a charge plate monitor in accordance with ionization standard ANSI/ESD STM3.1-2000 of the ESD Association.