The key to long-term competitiveness in today’s global marketplace includes products of optimum quality, at competitive prices, delivered in record time. Today, the ability to meet rigid quality standards is an expectation rather than a competitive advantage. A company must have, to survive and prosper, an in-depth Quality Management System; one that will meet and exceed the demands of customers. International Standards such as ISO 9001, AS 9100 and ISO/TS 16949 provide requirements to which a Quality Management System can be developed and maintained. These standards help guide companies to increasingly higher levels of quality through continual process improvement.

WORKING WITH IMEC
To assist companies, IMEC works on-site to instruct and guide all implementation activities to ensure a full understanding of the requirements, and to maximize the benefits of the Quality Management System. Additionally, IMEC serves as a catalyst to lead its clients through a full QMS implementation. Working with a company’s staff, IMEC provides implementation training and assistance through:

• Management awareness/employee overview for the requirements of the International Standard
• Quality Manual and Procedures review and development
• Distribution of document templates as needed
• Process identification and mapping
• Quality planning and quality policy/objectives
• Management review
• Development of job descriptions/training schedules/training effectiveness analysis
• Product realization - including determination of customer requirements, supplier evaluation, and development
• Measurement and analysis of process activity
• Customer satisfaction/analysis
• Management of nonconforming product
• Continual improvement, corrective & preventive action
• Internal auditor training
• Integration of APQP, FMEA, MSA, SPC, as customer-required (may not be applicable for ISO 9001 and AS 9100)

IMEC can assist with the development of required documentation and provide guidance on implementing the documented policies and procedures. The completion of assignments, development and implementation of plans and procedures, as well as overall accountability for the completion and implementation of identified activities, resides with the company. It is important that the company dedicate at least one individual to focus on implementation of QMS activities.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS
IMEC’s assistance in implementing a sound Quality Management System include:

• An understanding of ISO 9001, AS 9100, ISO/TS 16949 requirements for management & employees
• The tools and knowledge to maintain and continuously improve their QMS
• Trained internal auditors to monitor/report on the effectiveness of their QMS
• Readiness for the initial Certification Audit
• The ability to respond to the registrar’s certification audit findings

For more information, contact IMEC at 888-806-4632 or info@imec.org.