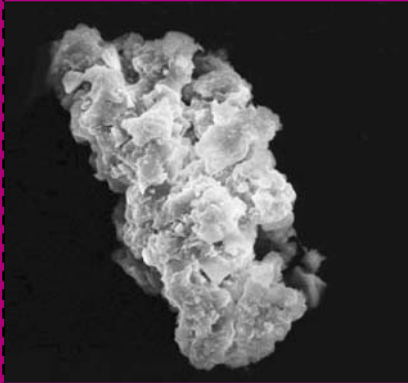


Contamination Identification



Key Enabler to Improving Process Materials and Manufacturing Yield

Reducing contamination is one of many key enablers to improving manufacturing yield and increasing profit margin. Contamination may arise from the facility, tools, process materials and excursions. It is important to develop individual contamination baseline and cleanliness specifications for the manufacturing facility and the processes especially when developing advanced technologies.

For rapid resolution of a contamination escalation it is important to identify the contaminant and trace its root cause. A common mistake is to rely on familiar analytical techniques. The technique selected should be based solely on the information required to definitively identify the contaminant or to verify a hypothesis or mechanism of the contaminant source. The following **Analytical Decision Tree** is a valuable tool for deciding which technique to select. This tree is applicable to all high technology industries including semiconductor, photovoltaic, biomedical and pharmaceutical where reducing contamination is a priority.

