Resolution of Low IMC on Multi-Stacked Dice Device with Different Bond Pads

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ABSTRACT

The continuing advances of die technology of integrated circuits (IC) miniaturization bringing more complexity in the product. At unusual conditions one may encounter new challenges intrinsic to the structure of the package. The study aims to qualify a product such as multi-stacked dice configurations with baseline reference using same die technology. The only difference is the substrate layout in which defined for the electrical purpose. The challenge is to understand and resolve low intermetallic coverage (IMC) on each die which may lead to manufacturability and reliability problems over time.

Keywords: Bond pad; intermetallic coverage; multi-stacked dice; wirebond.

1. INTRODUCTION

During the evaluation stage wirebond process parameters were challenged. The change of substrate becomes critical as it not comparable to the existing device already manufacturable. Using the problem definition tree, possible root cause was being scrutinized. Fig. 1 shows the low intermetallic coverage or intermetallic compound (IMC) measured on the device in

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focus. The intermetallic formation between bondwire (or simply wire) of either Gold (Au), Silver (Ag) or Copper (Cu) material to the Aluminum (Al) bond pad is one of the critical factors in measuring the reliability and integrity of wirebonding [1-4]. Worth to note that with the continuing technology trends, challenges in semiconductor assembly manufacturing are inevitable [5-8]. Among the risk factors affecting the low IMC, the main contributors attributed to the failure were identified. First, the amount of heat transfer from heat block to the surface of the bond pad and second, the type of capillary that will match to the device material changes. The new device encountered low IMC that led to the risk mitigation and solution formulation to successfully qualify the product.

2. METHODS AND RESULTS

The target IMC shall be observed accordingly in each die depending on the temperature setpoint given in Table 1. The impact of increasing temperature shall be evaluated. In line with this, the warpage level after strip heat application shall also be also observed and prior the evaluation decision point.

The hypothesis of the capillary structure also affects the IMC performance. There is an alternative capillary available aside from the current control. In Table 2, the other type were included in the evaluation and will observe the intermetallic performance.

Based on the comprehensive data collection at different temperature controls. The impact of bonding temperature has significant effect to the Die 3 IMC performance. Fig. 2 describes the intermetallic at different temperature potential with a p-value (probability value) of 0.0151. In terms of the effect, the lower temperature at 170 degrees Celsius (deg C) has lower effect on intermetallic readings. As temperature increases, IMC increases for capillary A which is the control parameter.

The other capillary potential solution using different bond site temperature are shown in Fig. 3. The impact of temperature were also observed on Die 3. There is a significant effect on the IMC response in each parameter. At p-value of 0.0057, the variation on the spread and location of IMC are visible favorable at 180 deg C. It was observed to have better performance comparing to the other temperature set point.

![Fig. 1. IMC failure of the device](image)

![Table 1. IMC matrix for wirebond heat block temperature](image)

| Die | Temperature |
|-----|-------------|
| Die 1 | 170 deg C | 180 deg C | 190 deg C |
| Die 2 | | | |
| Die 3 | | | |
Table 2. IMC matrix for type of capillary

| Die  | Capillary          | Capillary A (control) | Capillary B (new) |
|------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Die 1| •                 |                       |                   |
| Die 2| •                 |                       |                   |
| Die 3| •                 |                       |                   |

To determine and identify what will be the best solution to the problem, a statistical comparison between the two capillaries at maximum IMC requirement were analyzed. Fig. 4 describes the best temperature application for the two types of capillary.

Looking at the parameters, it is better to apply the capillary B without any failures on the performance. For the point of manufacturing process control, the higher performance is better. In this case, variation of the location and the spread of IMC data were considered. And the drawbacks of implementing higher side on the unmolded strips may pose threat such as strip warpage in the future. Looking at Table 3, all data favored capillary B.
Folio et al.; JERR, 20(9): 13-17, 2021; Article no.JERR.69827

Fig. 4. Capillary A and B overall IMC performance

Table 3. IMC matrix for wirebond heat block temperature and type of capillary

| Die  | Temperature | Capillary | Capillary A | Capillary B |
|------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Die 1 | 170 deg C   | Passed    | Passed      | Better      |
| Die 2 | 180 deg C   | Passed    | Passed      | Better      |
| Die 3 | 190 deg C   | Passed    | Passed      | Better      |

3. CONCLUSION

Package robustness can be attained with minimal variability if the key factors involved are thoroughly assessed. For this product, lower IMC response were attributed to the type of capillary and temperature setpoint. The data gathering and statistical analysis made the team concluded for the better parameter to apply. Learnings from the challenges are documented and deployed to the manufacturing group to promote sustainable manufacturing excellence. Moreover, works and studies discussed in [9-12] are useful in reinforcing robustness and optimization of the semiconductor device during wirebond process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would never get tired of sharing the sincerest gratitude to the New Product Development & Introduction (NPD-I) team, and the Management Team (MT) for the continuous support.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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Peer-review history:
The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:
http://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/69827