Is a Known Good Die Hard to Find?

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The availability of known good die is a question that surfaces at many conferences during discussions of semiconductor packaging topics ranging from flip chip to MCMs. For companies that have internal semiconductor production capabilities, procuring bare die that is known to be good should not be difficult, in theory. However, there are instances where KGD are not available from one division of a company to another. In the last few years many companies have introduced carriers to test chips allowing them to be certified known good. More than a dozen companies offer carrier solutions, and a dozen more offer bare die. The question remains: Why is KGD still a problem? Or is it still a problem? This discussion examines the issues associated with the manufacturing, testing, and procurement of known good die.

Included in the discussions are the economic issues of price and the business issues of certification. The discussion concludes with an outlook for the availability of KGD.