

THE YEAR AHEAD IN ...

OIL & GAS



AGRICULTURE



REAL ESTATE



TOURISM



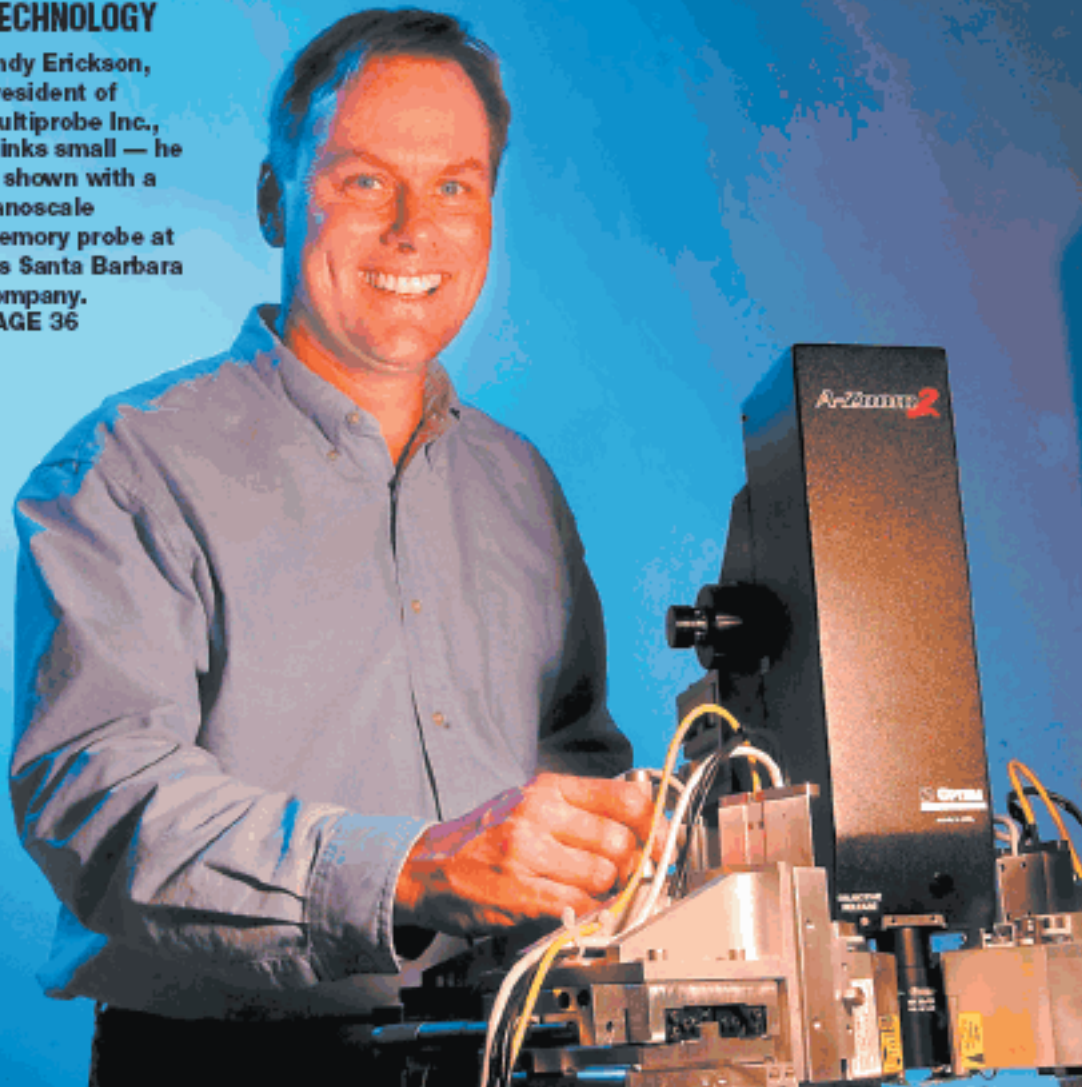
RETAIL



GOVERNMENT
BANKING
DEMOGRAPHICS
DEFENSE

TECHNOLOGY

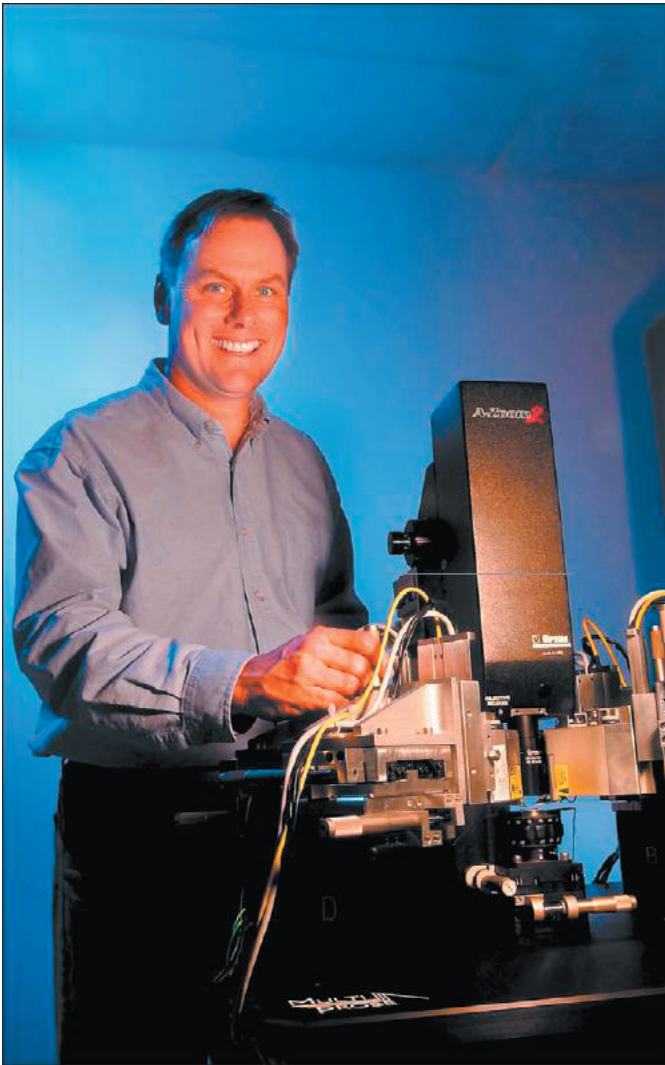
Andy Erickson, president of Multiprobe Inc., thinks small — he is shown with a nanoscale memory probe at his Santa Barbara company. PAGE 36



SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Sunday, February 13, 2005



Andy Erickson, president of Multiprobe, Inc., is shown with a nanoscale memory probe at his company on East Canon Perdido in Santa Barbara. Multiprobe develops and manufactures some of the world's highest resolution microprobing tools for the semiconductor industry. In May, the company announced distribution agreements covering Japan and a half-dozen European countries.

MIKE ELIASON / NEWS-PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

NANO STEPS

Research and development running strong in Santa Barbara County

For a glimpse at the direction the world may be taking as it steps over the threshold of the 21st century, look no further than nanotechnology, a revolutionary fusion of physics, chemistry and biology.

This is science and technology at the level of atoms and molecules, working on the infinitesimal scale of a nanometer — a billionth of a meter. That is maybe the length of a few atoms holding hands and thousands of times smaller than the diameter of a human hair.

By manipulating structures at this primal level, nanotechnology can create new devices, systems and materials that likely will affect almost all aspects of our lives.

Nanotechnology is not a new idea, and its potential was famously unveiled in a groundbreaking talk, "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom," given in 1959 by Richard Feynman, winner of the Nobel Prize in physics.

Although a lack of practical applications in recent years has left some investors wary, especially after the popping of the dot-com bubble, that has not slowed the pace of research and development, which is running strong in Santa Barbara County.

UCSB has joined forces with UCLA to build the \$53 million California Nanosystems Institute, a 111,000-square-foot building now under construction on the Isla Vista campus, while private enterprise has also embraced nanotechnology.

Close to downtown Santa Barbara, Multiprobe Inc. develops and manufactures some of the world's highest resolution microprobing tools for the semiconductor industry.

A year ago, the company moved to larger offices on East Canon Perdido, where its engineers design analysis tools used by semiconductor manufacturers worldwide to test their products. In May, Multiprobe announced distribution agreements covering Japan and a half-dozen European countries.

Meanwhile, Mitch Hawkins runs Interface Sciences, which has an office in Monterey and has just signed up for more than 9,000 square feet in the Cabrillo Business Center on Hollister

By FRANK NELSON
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