

**SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE WITH ELECTROSTATIC DISCHARGE  
PROTECTION**

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**Abstract of the Disclosure**

10 A semiconductor device is provided with a protective switch (11) connected between an external (14) terminal and a reference potential. A control electrode (13) of the protective switch (11) is connected capacitively to the external terminal (14), so that the switch (11) turns on quickly in response to a high voltage applied to the external terminal (14), thereby protecting any circuits (12) of the device connected to the external terminal (14) from damage caused by the high voltage.