EIPC NEWS

A Webinar with Walt Custer
9th and 23th June 2020
Fully booked!

Business Outlook for Global Electronics Industry with Emphasis on Europe
June 23, 2020 at 16:00 hrs Standard European Time
Free of Charge

The Directors of The European Institute for the PCB Community invite you one again to join the second Free of charge Webinar which they will be holding on Tuesday 23rd June 2020 at 16.00 hrs Standard European Time.

The Webinar is again limited to 50 registrations. The first 20 registrations are exclusive to EIPC members, most of whom will be familiar with the unique experience that is a presentation from Walt Custer, who is the fount of all knowledge about our market and our industry. Hurry, there are only 3 seats left available!

Walt will lead off with the Business Outlook for Global Electronics Industry, with particular emphasis on Europe, followed by a look at electronic industry supply chains, electronic equipment, process equipment, material and components, as well as a view of the PCB industry nationally and internationally.

Of specific pertinence will be his current economic outlook including leading indicators that will predict timing and magnitude of recovery.

Business Outlook for Global Electronics Industry (with Emphasis on Europe)

Topics to include:

*Current economic outlook including leading indicators that will predict timing and magnitude of recovery

*Electronic Supply Chain
- Electronic equipment
- Components including printed circuits
- Process equipment
- Materials

*Forecasts

At this stage we can only offer to register for the reserve list.
This means that you might have a chance to participate at the webinar but only if someone drops out.
Please send an email to kwestenberg@eipc.org and she will add you to the reserve list.

Your registration will be confirmed by the EIPC office via email. You will receive a ZOOM invitation to log in for the Webinar. The presentation will be distributed by
Mr. Walt Custer himself after the online event has taken place.

The European Institute for the PCB Community

EIPC SPEeDNEWS

Issue 15 — May 2020

NEWS FROM GERMANY

Schweizer Electronic AG: Production starts at the new location in China

A new high-tech plant enables highly competitive products to be made using a unique production concept with guaranteed supply chain security in Europe

Schramberg, May 26, 2020 – After a construction period of one and a half years, production started at the new high-tech printed circuit board plant in Jiangsu, China, a few days ago. SCHWEIZER has invested around EUR 100 million in the new facility to date. Once the final expansion stage has been completed, the plant will have a capacity of over 7,000 square metres per day, which is roughly five times that of the German plant. ISO 9001 certification has already been successfully concluded. "Customers who have been able to visit the plant so far were really impressed by the integrated production concept", reports Alfred Pang, Managing Director in China and long-standing member of staff at SCHWEIZER.

The unique German-Chinese set-up now enables SCHWEIZER to provide technology products at competitive prices in the highest quality. Linking the largest European PCB production factory, in Schramberg, Germany, and the new plant in China will ensure the highest level of delivery security for the supply chain stability of customers in Europe.

With its Chinese location, SCHWEIZER is opening up access to new markets and customer groups and is able to provide a complete range of PCB technologies, ranging from simple multilayer circuit boards to future-oriented chip embedding technology from both production plants. Today, we are a recognised technology partner for the European automotive industry. China will now enable us to present our expertise to a much broader customer base. In addition to its own sales teams in Europe and China, SCHWEIZER has also set up distribution partnerships in North America and Japan, with Korea to follow very soon.

The Jintan plant, located in Jiangsu province about 200 km east of Shanghai, is equipped with the latest plant technologies and is unique in its high level of machine integration and automation. The entire production process fulfils the stringent requirements for a chip embedding company with regard to cleanliness and electrostatic shielding. An experienced team of staff from China, Germany, Singapore and Taiwan, some of whom have been employed by SCHWEIZER for many years, guarantees our company maxim: One company –

One Team – One Quality.

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NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

PCB manufacturer SQP International invests in new plasma treatment system

As part of the continuous upgrade of the PCB manufacturing processes the Slovakian PCB manufacturer SQP International has invested in a new plasma treatment system.

The plasma treatment system – which comes from **Boffotto** and was supplied by Dutch based **Adeon Technologies** – will be used for the de-smear and etch-back during the manufacturing of printed circuits boards.

The plasma treatment replaces processes that are much more harmful to the environment, among other due to hazardous waste disposal. Another feature that the plasma treatment brings is a higher accuracy of the process, assuring higher quality and enabling the production of more advanced circuit boards.

"Due to the travel restrictions due to the Covid19 virus the installation of the plasma treatment system is done inhouse by our own staff, they did a really great job. Well organized remote support by the supplier assured that the installation and start-up of the

equipment went very smooth.The plasma treatment system is one of the investments we have done in the recent years. Other investments SQP made in the recent years are introduction of LDI Technology, strip etch line for track/gap down to 100micron, solder resist spray coating and the introduction of technology for filled and capped via holes. All these investments are focusing on product and process quality improvement and increase our capabilities as PCB manufacturer," says Peter Hric CEO of **SQP International**, in a press release.

Jeroen Charmant, co-owner of **SQP International** and CEO of **S&Q Europe**, details why the company decided to invest in the system: "The choice for the Boffotto P06H system is made because of its unique vacuum and gas flow technology and the superior temperature management. The balance of the critical design elements and process parameters creates a system that is capable to do the most uniform PCB treatment for key applications like desmear and landing pad cleaning."

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NEWS FROM THE UK

ESA approval for Ventec VT-901 material in ACB Belgium rigid & flex-rigid production

26 May 2020 – Ventec International Group Co., Ltd. (6672 TT) is pleased to announce that its VT-901 polyimide material is now fully qualified by ESA in ACB Belgium's manufacturing process for rigid and rigid-flex polyimide PCBs and HDI PCBs.

With high Td (395°C), a Tg of 250°C and Low-Axis CTE (50), Ventec's VT-901 polyimide material provides the extremely high reliability performance demanded by ACB's flex & flex-rigid and HDI PCB manufacturing process that meets ESA requirements.

Ventec manufactures all VT-901 polyimide using specially designed treaters with multiple stage filtration systems and 100% Automated Optical Inspection (AOI) for prepreg FOD-control. The same specialist equipment is used for the production of thin-core laminates for use in the most demanding space and aerospace PCB applications. ACB's state-of-the-art PCB manufacturing facility in Dendermonde (Belgium) and the AS9100 Rev D accreditation of Ventec's manufacturing and distribution facilities, position both companies as market-leaders within the space and aerospace electronics supply chain.

Joachim Verhegge, ACB's Product Engineering Manager, says: 'Meeting and exceeding the highest possible standards of quality and performance is our highest priority. We are pleased to receive ESA approval for the use of Ventec's material in our designs and look forward to continuing to work closely with ESA in meeting their requirements.'

Mark Goodwin, Ventec COO EMEA & USA, commented: ‘I'm delighted with our long-term technology partnership with ACB, assisting them through close cooperation to further strengthen their position for aerospace-standard solutions and finished PCBs. The ESA approval demonstrates the thermal robustness of Ventec VT-901 polyimide and its suitability for use in high reliability rigid and flex rigid multi-layers in the demanding aerospace sector.'

www.venteclaminates.com

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ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY NEWS

The US needs to rethink its overseas supply chain

By Thomas Ayres

As Americans respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have become acutely aware of the outsized impact of our dependence on China in the supply chain.

Pharmaceutical companies learned key chemicals and minerals are exclusively made or mined in China. For instance, reports show China produces 97 percent of the antibiotics, 95 percent of ibuprofen and 91 percent of hydrocortisone consumed in the U.S. market. Hospitals also learned that while China produces 50 percent of the world's face masks, they

are of dubious reliability. There is cause for concern with the quantity or quality of ventilators.

In sum, we learned as citizens what we in the Department of Defense have known for some time: Our national security supply chain must be free from dependence on China.

The DoD's concern for its supply chain is not new. Congress spurred activity over a decade ago by questioning the DoD's supply chain risk management, or SCRM, policies. The National Defense Strategy's recognition of a new era of strategic, great power competition further sharpened the DoD's focus, propelling recent efforts to enhance regulations and procedures in addressing supply chain threats.

We are transitioning from analog to digital, with the goal of planes, ships, tanks and satellites all seamlessly sharing data — a lethal version of the ride-sharing app on your smartphone. Yet, even as the DoD builds this future, the threat of supply chain disruption and concerns about component quality within the electronic backbone are real. Counterfeit or planted microelectronic parts can be vectors for cybersecurity intrusions.

Recently, for instance, the DoD voiced concerns that Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei's 5G solution provided back doors, purposefully or negligently, for data corruption, data extraction, system failure or worse. Similarly, SCRM policies have increasingly addressed the concern of intellectual property theft enabled by subcomponents designed to allow information to flow back to larger architectures. The COVID-19 pandemic is giving new meaning to that threat, and the risk of disruption to both raw and manufactured materials from abroad has become apparent.

Our SCRM focus must broaden in response to COVID-19 to better address national production capacity and sustainability. Being able to assure access to the minerals, chemicals, subcomponents and components required to build weapon systems is essential. China supplies 80 percent of the rare earth minerals imported to the U.S., many of which are essential to electronic parts. Since 1933, the Buy American Act has required federal agencies, including the DoD, to purchase items manufactured in the U.S. Additionally, these items must be made from supplies mined or made in the U.S.

The act is implemented by regulations requiring analysis of the components — where they are mined or made, and where they are assembled. Companies that falsify "Made in America" designations can be debarred from the federal marketplace. In July 2019, months before the pandemic emerged, President Donald Trump issued an executive order seeking to increase the minimum domestic manufacture thresholds above the current 50 percent floors. The pandemic now shows even more needs to be done. We must increase to

President Trump's mandated percentages, and we must also analyze where each of the subcomponents are manufactured.

This doesn't mean we need to back away from allied contributions or alliance-based weapon systems like the F-35 fighter jet, which benefits from the industrial cooperation of nine partner nations. But in light of COVID-19, it does mean that when we make risk-based and measured decisions to produce an alliance system, we program in several months' worth of component backlogs to allow continued production during future quarantines.

The majority of our weapon systems are made in the U.S. by American companies with greater than 50 percent of component production and assembly done domestically. Yet, what is less clear are the composition of the subcomponents in the components themselves. Not recognizing the risks of the subcomponents equally jeopardizes the new reality of disruptions to our supply chain and risks of data extraction, degradation and spying, about which we have increasingly been concerned.

Recently, I sought to buy a grapefruit spoon on the internet and found it exceedingly difficult to learn where the offered spoons were made. The harder it was to find, the more I suspected it was made in China. Perhaps Congress should pass a law making it easier to learn the source of manufacturing. Ensuring my access to an American-made grapefruit spoon is not nearly as vital as assuring our access to critical weapon systems, rare earth materials, and pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. A vital step is knowing the source countries of components and subcomponents. We must have deeper knowledge of the full supply chains of subcomponents, and how and where they are produced.

Trust can only come once we know all that is required to understand our supply chains and we seek even greater focus in our new normal. Our security depends on it.

Thomas Ayres is general counsel for the U.S. Air Force.

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International Diary

2020

EIPC Webinar with Walt Custer
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9 June

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23 June

KPCA
21-23 July
Incheon, Korea

EIPC @ Evertiq Expo
3 September
Tampere, Finland

FED Conference
17-18 September
Augsburg, Germany

IPCA Expo
23-25 September
India

TPCA Exhibition
21-23 October
Taipei, Taiwan

EIPC @ Electronica 2020
10-13 November
München, Germany

ECWC15, WECC World Electronics Circuits Council
30 November-2 December
Shenzhen, China

HKPCA Exhibition
2-4 December
Hong Kong, China

2021

EIPC @ SMTconnect
4-6 May
Nuremberg, Germany