The European Institute for the PCB Community

EIPC SPEeDNEWS

The Weekly On-Line Newsletter
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NEWS FROM GERMANY

SMTconnect 2024: electronics production and power electronics

The countdown is on for SMTconnect, which will commence in three months in the exhibition halls of Nuremberg, Germany, from 11 – 13 June 2024.

The SMTconnect 2024 offers a new way aspect: In order to increasingly address the interaction between electronics manufacturing and power electronics, Hall 5 of the PCIM Europe will be dedicated to "Smart Power System Integration" as a connecting element between the two industries. This hall will focus on the specific requirements of power electronics manufacturing.

"In order to promote an intensive exchange between both industry experts, the SMTconnect is moving closer to the PCIM Europe. In addition, the topic of power electronics production will be further integrated into the trade fair concept to meet the growing demand from visitors in this area,"explains Jeannette Meyer, Deputy Vice President, SMTconnect, adding: "The advancing miniaturisation and complexity in the electronics industry is leading to constantly increasing demands on assembly and connection technologies. Processes and process technologies are merging, and the focus is shifting to system integration. Visitors to the Smart Power Systems Integration Stage at the PCIM Europe can find out about the latest findings in presentations and discuss them in further talks with exhibitors at the SMTconnect."

The Future Packaging Production Line by the Fraunhofer Institute for Reliability and Microintegration offers additional insights into individual production steps. This year's motto is "See the REAL DEAL" and focuses on

how a higher degree of digitalisation and automation can make manufacturing processes more robust against disruptions and external influences. This networking of experts from both the electronics manufacturing and power electronics sectors enables not only a comprehensive view of the entire production process, but also provides an intensive exchange to develop cross-industry and customised solutions.

For Stefan Theil, Managing Director and CEO of Factronix GmbH, the trade fair in the field of microelectronics facilitates a great deal of scope for this high-level networking: “The SMTconnect offers an exciting trade fair concept – new technologies, trends and pioneering concepts are presented here. For us, the trade fair is therefore the platform to present our latest systems and production technologies. We also can find out about current trends, share industry-specific knowledge, maintain customer relationships and increase our visibility in the industry.”

Alfred Pammer, Head of Sales & Marketing at cts GmbH, also agrees: “Focused, effective and informal – the SMTconnect brings the core of the electrical industry together and enables an informal and very effective exchange on concrete challenges and latest developments in the market.”

Top current forum program with insights into power electronics

Visitors to the SMTconnect 2024 can look forward to a varied program of lectures. On the second day of the trade fair, power electronics production will be the main topic at the forum. The program will be supplemented on all three days by subjects such as “AI in electronics production and Industry 4.0” and “Sustainable electronics production”. Industry experts will present and discuss new solutions and trends in electronics manufacturing. The full forum program will be published on the SMTconnect website from mid-April.

All elements required for the production process in system integration are presented at the trade fair for microelectronics. The SMTconnect shows a comprehensive spectrum of surface mounting, from materials and components to coating and test systems. Many renowned companies such as Asys, Essemtec, FUJI Europe, Göpel electronic, SmartRep, Viscom and Techvalley will be there again this year showcasing their latest products and services in these fields. Further information on the participating companies can be found in the online exhibitor search.

Ticket shop opens in March

The SMTconnect ticket shop will open on 1 March 2024. The trade fair ticket includes admission to the parallel events the PCIM Europe and the SENSOR+TEST. Further information on travel and a special ticket offer from Deutsche Bahn rail service during the trade fair period can be found on the website.

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NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Eltek Ltd. Reports Full year and Fourth Quarter 2023 Financial Results

Eltek Ltd. has announced its financial results for the full year and fourth quarter ended December 31, 2023.
Full Year and Fourth Quarter 2023 Highlights

- Revenues: Full-year revenue soared to a record $46.7 million in 2023, representing 18% year-over-year growth. This remarkable growth is attributed to our increased production capacity and to our continued commitment to delivering high-quality PCB solutions to our valued customers.
- Profitability: Net income reached $6.4 million in 2023, reflecting almost two times 2022 net income. EBITDA reached $8.6 million, a 91% increase compared to $4.5 million in 2022. This substantial growth underscores the efficiency of our operations, strategic initiatives, and the unwavering trust our customers place in Eltek.
- Earnings per Share (EPS): Diluted EPS jumped to $1.07 in 2023, an increase of 93% compared to 2022. This accomplishment reflects the dedication of our team and the effectiveness of our business strategies.
- Q4 Highlights: Revenue climbed to $12.3 million in Q4, marking an 18% increase from the same period last year. Net income for the quarter reached $1.3 million and EBITDA for the quarter reached $2.4 million.

Driving Growth and Innovation:
Eltek's success stems from a multi-pronged approach:

- Innovation: Our relentless pursuit of innovation has allowed us to stay at the forefront of technological advancements, meeting the evolving needs of the defense, aerospace, and medical industries.
- Customer Focus: Building strong, long-lasting relationships with our customers has been a cornerstone of our success. We understand the

unique challenges faced by the defense, aerospace and medical sectors, and our tailored solutions have contributed to our customers' success.
- Operational Efficiency: Eltek continues to invest in state-of-the-art manufacturing processes and quality control measures, ensuring the production of reliable and high-performance PCBs.

Market Trends and Outlook:
The PCB industry is experiencing dynamic shifts, driven by advancements in technology and evolving market demands. As Eltek primarily operates in the defense, aerospace and medical sectors, we are well-positioned to capitalize on the following market trends:

- Increasing Demand for Advanced Electronics: The defense and aerospace industries are witnessing a growing need for sophisticated electronic components, driving the demand for high-performance PCBs. Eltek's focus on innovation aligns perfectly with this trend.
- Emphasis on Reliability and Quality: With critical applications in defense, aerospace and medical devices, reliability and quality are non-negotiable. Eltek has consistently delivered PCB solutions that meet the stringent standards of these industries, reinforcing our position as a trusted partner.
- Global Supply Chain Challenges: The industry has faced challenges related to the global supply chain. Eltek has proactively managed these challenges through strategic partnerships and diversified sourcing, ensuring minimal impact on our operations.

Management Statement:
Eli Yaffe, CEO of Eltek, stated, "We are thrilled to report a very strong fourth quarter and year, surpassing all financial targets and solidifying our position as a leader in the PCB market. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our team, the trust of our valued partners and the unwavering support of our shareholders. Looking ahead, we are confident in our ability to navigate the evolving industry landscape and continue delivering exceptional value to all shareholders. The defence, aerospace and medical industries present significant opportunities and Eltek is well-positioned to capitalize on them.

Our decision at the start of 2022 to allocate $15 million in an investment plan for expanding and enhancing our manufacturing capabilities aligns seamlessly with the existing robust demand for our products. Presently, a material portion of the investment plan has either been implemented or is currently in the installation phase. These investments will facilitate the augmentation of our production capacity, improve our operational efficiency and enhance our technological capabilities."

Ron Freund, CFO of Eltek added: “During February 2024, we raised $10 million in equity before expenses. We are grateful for the trust given by the investors who participated in the offering. We are committed to the continued growth of the Company, and we intend to use the funds raised for the expansion of our production capabilities as well as for working capital needs.”

2023 Full Year GAAP Financial Results

Revenues for 2023 were $46.7 million compared to $39.7 million in 2022.

Gross profit for 2023 was $13.1 million (28% of revenues) compared to $8.3 million (21% of revenues) in 2022.

Operating profit for 2023 was $7.3 million compared to operating profit of $3.0 million in 2022.

Financial income for 2023 was $0.4 million compared to financial income of $0.9 million in 2022.

Net profit for 2023 was $6.4 million or $1.07 per fully diluted share compared to net profit of $3.2 million or $0.55 per fully diluted share in 2022.

2023 Full Year Non-GAAP Financial Results

EBITDA for 2023 was a $8.6 million (18% of revenues) compared to EBITDA of $4.5 million (11% of revenues) in 2022.

Fourth Quarter 2023 GAAP Financial Results

Revenues for the fourth quarter of 2023 were $12.3 million compared to $10.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Gross profit for the fourth quarter of 2023 was $3.5 million (28% of revenues) compared to $2.2 million (21% of revenues) in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Operating profit for the fourth quarter of 2023 was $2.0 million compared to operating profit of $0.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Financial expenses for the fourth quarter of 2023 were $0.3 million compared to financial income of $0.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2022. The financial expenses in the fourth quarter of 2023, derive primarily from the erosion of the US Dollar against the NIS during the quarter.

Net profit for the fourth quarter of 2023 was $1.3 million or $0.22 per fully diluted share compared to net profit of $0.8 million or $0.14 per fully diluted share in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Fourth Quarter 2023 Non-GAAP Financial Results

EBITDA for the fourth quarter of 2023 was a $2.4 million (19% of revenues) compared to EBITDA of $1.2 million (12% of revenues) in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Investor Contact
Ron Freund
Chief Financial Officer
Investor-Contact@nisteceltek.com
+972-3-939-5023

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NEWS FROM ITALY

ICAPE Group Strengthens Its Presence and Expertise in Italy with Two New Acquisitions, Studio E2 and P.C.S

ICAPE Group is pleased to announce the acquisition of two companies in Italy. Studio E2 and P.C.S are now linked to the structure of ICAPE Italy. This move enhances ICAPE Group's footprint in the country, which radiates throughout Southern Europe with new expertise, suppliers, and service offerings.

Studio E2 specializes in printed circuit board engineering and is closely related to ICAPE Italy's business unit, both based in the same city. The collaboration between the two companies has been longstanding, making the integration a natural progression.

"We selected ICAPE Group as our partner for manufacturing printed circuits for our clients. We've had an excellent relationship with Renato Farruggio, the director of ICAPE Italy, and have been highly satisfied with ICAPE Group's services as a client. The idea of joining forces came naturally, and we look forward to integrating into such a high-performing and mature structure as ICAPE Group. Together, we will be able to offer an even broader range of services to our clients, further reduce production lead times, and optimize our clients' production chain performance," said Roberto Forti at Studio E2.

In a strategic move, ICAPE Group has also acquired P.C.S SRL, founded in 1979 and handled by Massimo Gosio for more than 25 years. Located in Lombardy, near Milan, PCS SRL is renowned as one of Italy's most experienced electronics technicians in the printed circuit industry, boasting exceptional results such as achieving "Zero Defect" status with only one product return since 2008.

“It is an honour to have reached an agreement with ICAPE Group. With 25 years of experience in the PCB industry, I am familiar with all the companies that make up this galaxy. Joining the ICAPE Group organization is a significant step forward, and I am eager to contribute my experience to this industry pillar. I am confident that together, we will go far, benefiting our clients with ICAPE’s purchasing power and, of course, the entire range of technical components from CIPEM, whose demand is rapidly increasing,” said Massimo Gosio, Managing Director of P.C.S. SRL.

Managed by Renato Farruggio, the iconic director of ICAPE Italy, this new team has ambitious plans in a country with strong growth potential.

“ICAPE Italy’s progress has been consistent over the past 5 years. We have expanded our facilities to welcome more employees and more storage space, and today, we welcome two companies with extensive expertise into our team. With Studio E2 and P.C.S. by our side, we have ambitious growth plans for Italy, as well as for the Southern European countries experiencing significant dynamism. It’s a new era for ICAPE Italy!” said Renato Farruggio.

Recognising the importance of this geographical sector, Yann Duigou, CEO of ICAPE Group, was keen to prepare ICAPE Group’s Italian structure for significant growth:

“Proximity is a founding value in our organization. Our priority is to be on the field, alongside our clients, with the support of a group deployed worldwide. Bringing together such talent in Italy was an opportunity we couldn’t miss.

Seika Machinery is gearing up to showcase its latest advancements at Booth 4012 during the 2024 IPC APEX EXPO, 9th – 11th April.

Seika Machinery, Inc. will be at Booth 4012 during the 2024 IPC APEX EXPO, in the Anaheim Convention Centre in California.

Seika Machinery will present an array of state-of-the-art equipment and systems designed to optimise production processes and enhance manufacturing efficiency. Among the offerings featured at the expo is the Hioki Flying Probe Tester, able to evaluate solder joints between lands and leads through resistance testing. With a measuring rate of 40 steps per second, this advanced tester incorporates an AOI function to verify

component presence, polarity and displacement, while soft-landing probes prevent damage to boards and components.

Additionally, the Hioki Flying Probe Tester boasts a minimum probing pitch of 0.15mm, facilitating fast fixture-less setup and optional Gerber data-based programming, all operated through a user-friendly Windows® 10 interface.

Seika Machinery will also showcase the Hitachi Giken Neoview, a revolutionary visual inspection support system that transcends human limitations, ensuring accuracy and consistency in inspection results.

Designed to accommodate global expansion, the Neoview system addresses critical questions surrounding visual inspection, providing comprehensive solutions supported by international patents.

Additionally, the expo will feature the Malcom RCX Profiler, offering comprehensive profiling of reflow ovens, and the Malcom Spot Viscometer for Paste Printer – PCU02V, designed to measure the viscosity of solder paste for optimal soldering results.

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the new Sawa Pallet Cleaner – SCPA2, offering allin-one assembly, flux, wave soldering, and final product cleaning, as well as the McDry dry cabinet with Ethernet Data Logger, providing secure cloud-based data storage and monitoring capabilities.

Rounding out the exhibition are the Unitech PCB Cleaner, featuring a dual dust removal system for superior cleaning results, and the Sayaka 34XJ Inline/Stand-alone Router, delivering precise PCB depaneling and routing with exceptional accuracy and efficiency.

Seika Machinery invites attendees to visit Booth 4012 at the 2024 IPC APEX EXPO to experience firsthand the latest advancements in electronics manufacturing technology

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NEWS FROM NORWAY

CONFIDEE approved by Terma A/S

"We are honoured to announce that we are approved as supplier for Danish Terma's Space Division", says Vidar Olsen CEO Confidee.

Confidee, focusing on supply chain protection, safeguarding data and compliant printed circuits, has provided both ESA and non-ESA printed circuits for the Danish company.

"Our unwavering commitment to compliance and diligent work to achieve Industry Specific standards as the AS9120, is a given for us when working with highly professional actors as Terma A/S and other Tier 1 partners in the Space and Defence industry. We value our business relationship with Terma A/S highly and are humble for their trust" says Olsen.

AS9120 is a globally recognized standard specifically designed for suppliers in the aviation, space and defence industry operated by the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG). It represents the highest level of quality and excellence in the supply chain, ensuring that products and services meet stringent industry requirements and regulations.

CONFIDEE's attainment of this certification underscores its dedication to delivering superior solutions.

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NEWS FROM SWEDEN

NCAB Approves Specialized Factories for Insulated Metal Base PCBs

NCAB, a leading authority in PCB manufacturing, has given its approval to factories specializing in IMS – Insulated Metal Base PCBs. These facilities are dedicated to meeting the rising demand for IMS technology, which finds applications in diverse sectors such as automotive, medical, aerospace, lighting, and industrial controls.

IMS technology, short for Insulated Metal Substrate, offers new opportunities, particularly in scenarios requiring efficient heat dissipation or handling high local thermal loads, such as in modern constructions featuring high-intensity LEDs. IMS PCBs are constructed on metal plates, typically aluminum, onto which a specialized prepreg is applied. This prepreg boasts excellent heat dissipation capabilities and high dielectric strength against elevated voltages.

The superiority of IMS PCBs in heat dissipation is evident when compared to standard FR4 PCBs. For instance, an IMS PCB with a 0.15mm thermal prepreg could exhibit thermal resistance over 100 times lower than that of a 1.60mm FR4 PCB, making it an ideal choice for applications requiring effective thermal management.

NCAB not only endorses IMS technology but also facilitates knowledge dissemination through seminars focused on thermal management and IMS board design. These sessions explore alternatives to IMS boards and equip industry professionals with the necessary expertise to harness the full potential of this innovative technology.

With the endorsement of NCAB and the advancements in IMS technology, manufacturers across various industries have access to efficient solutions for their thermal management needs, ensuring the reliability and performance of critical systems.

For further information or assistance, interested parties are encouraged to reach out to their local NCAB Group company, which stands ready to provide support and guidance.

NCAB Group AB
Löfströms allé 5
172 66 Sundbyberg
Sweden

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NEWS FROM THE UK

Ventec Expands European Technical Sales Expertise at UK Leamington Spa Office

Ventec International Group is pleased to announce the appointment of Leigh Eastwood as Technical Sales Engineer. Covering the UK and Western European regions, Leigh will work to bring Ventec's advanced thermal management and high-speed solutions to a wider audience, providing unparalleled expert-level support to both existing and new customers.

Leigh brings over a decade's PCB material technical expertise to Ventec's European operation, as well as a wealth of understanding regarding customer needs in the market of custom PCB and prototype design. With a focus on business development, product training and user satisfaction, he expands Ventec's team of dedicated technical sales engineers who work to improve the customer's understanding and application of Ventec's advanced products, opening new avenues for efficiency and use.

Mark Goodwin, COO EMEA & Americas at Ventec comments: "Leigh brings a wide range of experience that's particularly relevant for the specialist European electronics industry. His background in UK PCB manufacture as well as a consummate understanding of Ventec's solutions offers our customers the level of consistent support we are proud to provide."

Further information about Ventec's solutions and the company's wide variety of products is available at www.venteclaminates.com.

Delta Impact Targets Top Position In PCB Market with Strategic Expansion

Delta Impact is taking significant strides to expand its footprint in the Printed Circuit Board (PCB) market, aiming to strengthen its position as a leading UK-owned PCB supplier. With the launch of a dedicated PCB division, the company is set to leverage its expertise and resources to not only maintain its current standing but to also venture into new growth avenues within the PCB industry. Eamon Francis, Managing Director of Delta Impact, emphasised the company's commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction, setting sights on becoming a globally recognised name in the PCB sector.

Strategic Growth Initiatives

Delta Impact's decision to focus on the PCB business comes at a time when the demand for PCBs is experiencing a notable increase, driven by advancements in electronic devices across various sectors. The establishment of a dedicated division underscores the company's strategic vision for sustainable growth and its intention to harness opportunities in the evolving market landscape. According to Francis, this strategic move is designed to enhance service delivery to customers and reinforce Delta Impact's competitive edge in the industry.

Expanding Global Reach

Since its inception in 1988, Delta Impact has developed a robust global presence, serving clients worldwide with high-quality PCB solutions. The company's recent initiatives, including the launch of a new website, are aimed at providing comprehensive information about its PCB services and the latest technological advancements in the field. This digital expansion is part of Delta Impact's broader strategy to connect with a global audience and tap into emerging markets, further solidifying its position as a leader in the PCB sector.

Future Prospects and Industry Impact

The PCB market is poised for growth, with increasing applications in consumer electronics, automotive, healthcare, and other industries driving demand. Delta Impact's focus on strengthening its PCB division is timely and aligns with the market's trajectory. The company's commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction, coupled with its strategic expansion

efforts, positions it well to capitalise on future opportunities and challenges in the PCB industry.

As Delta Impact continues to evolve and expand its operations, the PCB market is set to witness an increase in competition and innovation. The company's journey towards becoming a top-tier PCB supplier not only reflects its ambition but also its dedication to contributing to the industry's growth. With a clear strategic vision and an unwavering commitment to excellence, Delta Impact is poised for success in the dynamic and ever-changing PCB market.

Silicon Chip Industry Awareness Workshop Seminar

Last Chance To Register - Sign Up Today!

Don't delay, sign up now, this is a great opportunity to develop your knowledge and industry potential. Join us on Tue 19 March at the Holiday Inn in Kensington, London, England, 9:30am to 4:00pm. Whether you're a non-technologist struggling with the jargon or a specialist looking to understand the overall industry structure, this workshop is for you. Gain a competitive edge in the Semiconductor Industry by learning how the IC industry works from the science that enables silicon chips to be made from sand to the market fundamentals that drive applications and economics. Experience the industry through Listen, Discuss, See, Touch, and Learn activities and enjoy improved job satisfaction and operational efficiency.

Priced at just UK£795 plus 20 percent UK VAT per delegate, the fee includes copies of presentation materials, coffee breaks and lunch. Workshops can also be held in-house for your added convenience and flexibility. To preserve course integrity space is limited, so don't wait – Secure Your Spot Today at: https://www.futurehorizons.com/page/12/silicon-chip-training

Past Attendee Comments

"As a non-technologist, it was very beneficial to have these issues so clearly explained"
"The seminar provided a good basis to understanding the industry"
"It was GREAT! I can't remember a day of a similar density"
"I finally understand how to recognize products & their use in technology"
"This has helped me structure my thoughts & plans for the company"
"It gave me deeper insight into the industry in a way difficult to obtain anywhere else"

News from
WECC members

WECC
World Electronic Circuits Council

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NEWS FROM THE TPCA

PCB supply chains from both sides of the Taiwan Strait gather in Thailand, and the proportion of global output value in 2026 is expected to exceed 5% - Taiwan Circuit Board Association Printed Circuit March 5, 2024

In recent years, with the escalation of geopolitical conflicts and the disconnection crisis caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, the world has been prompted to rethink the importance of supply chain resilience, driving a new round of production relocation.

According to the latest statistics from the Taiwan Circuit Board Association (TPCA), between 2022 and 2023, a total of 29 Taiwanese and mainland-owned board manufacturers announced the opening of new factories in Southeast Asia, with 26 in Thailand as the main destination. Materials and supply chain, total investment exceeds US$2 billion. According to TPCA, the global circuit board (PCB) industry has experienced several waves of transformation.

Following mainland China's reform and opening up in the 1990s and China's entry into the WTO in 2001, these two waves of transformation have attracted global manufacturing and circuit board (PCB) industries to join. However, with the increase in local labour costs and the rise of the red supply chain, since 2010, Japanese and South Korean circuit board manufacturers have gradually reduced their proportion in the mainland and begun to expand investment in Southeast Asia, becoming a popular choice for PCB production bases, and their layout has become quite large.

Although the labour cost of the Taiwanese PCB industry in mainland China is not the lowest so far, its' convenient infrastructure, improved human quality, huge domestic demand market, and mature business environment are still the most advantageous regions for PCB production, accounting for about 62%. The output value remains in the mainland; mainland-owned board factories are almost all concentrated in the mainland.

Therefore, with the increasing scale of Taiwan-owned and mainland-owned board factories, the mainland has more than half of the world's PCB manufacturing capacity. This wave of supply chain transfer is mainly driven by international customers and is used to diversify the risks of over-concentration of production and trade uncertainty; some manufacturers are seeking new orders or diversifying the global layout of capital, becoming the first step for cross-strait PCB supply chains to expand to Southeast Asia. The main source of power, production competitiveness is steadily improving.

TPCA pointed out that in the past, Thailand's PCB industry was mainly dominated by Japanese companies and Thai businessman KCE. There were only three Taiwan-owned PCB companies, Taiding, Jingpeng and Jingyi, and they were mainly used in automobiles and computer peripheral related fields. The overall output value was about 3 billion US dollars. However, with the large-scale entry of Taiwanese and mainland manufacturers, Thailand's PCB layout will face major changes. Although the newly invested manufacturers still focus on multi-layer boards and HDI products, their application scope is no longer limited to automobiles, but will also expand to servers and other different application fields to make breakthroughs.

Taiwan and Thailand officials discuss bolstering PCB supply chain resilience.

The Taiwanese Printed Circuit Board (PCB) industry is actively expanding its operations into ASEAN countries, such as Thailand and Vietnam, to enhance the resilience of the global PCB supply chain. Sources revealed that representatives from the Republic of China (Taiwan) have engaged in discussions with the Thai government, seeking maximum support for manufacturers from Taiwan.

A delegation from Taiwan's Industrial Development Administration (IDA) reportedly visited Thailand's Office of Industrial Economics (OIE) in January of this year. The discussions were focused on supply chains, talent, labour, land, factory space, and the provision of stable water and electricity, aiming to enhance the resilience of Taiwan's PCB industry in the global supply chain.

The Taiwanese IDA noted Thailand's strengths in the Southeast Asian automotive assembly and components industry. In recent years, major PCB and materials manufacturers from Taiwan have been actively setting up operations in Thailand, especially around Bangkok and the Eastern

Economic Corridor (EEC), gradually creating a new cluster of Taiwanese PCB manufacturers. State of PCB and Chinese supply chains The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) boasts a plentiful labour force and lower labour costs than China, which has positioned it favourably in the shifting global supply chain landscape. 29 Taiwan-based and China-funded PCB manufacturers announced their establishment of new factories in Southeast Asia between 2022 and 2023. This trend was initiated even before the USChina trade war, as rising labour costs in China and the emergence of a "red" supply chain (often referred to as "the Chinese supply chain") had already prompted PCB manufacturers from Japan and South Korea to relocate. It is estimated that Thailand's PCB output could account for more than 5% of the global total by 2026. The gradual withdrawal of foreign investment from China and Hong Kong, coupled with clients' increased emphasis on supply chain resilience, has significantly influenced the strategic decisions of manufacturers from Taiwan. According to the statistics from the Hong Kong government, in 2023, the number of international companies with headquarters in Hong Kong dropped to 1,336, a 13.3% decrease from 2019 and the lowest count since 2012.

According to statistics from Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs' Bureau of Foreign Trade, the US-China trade war and inflation have impacted trade between Taiwan and China (including Hong Kong). In 2023, the trade volume between Taiwan and China totalled US$224 billion, a 17.5% decrease from the previous year and representing 28.6% of Taiwan's foreign trade. Furthermore, from January to October 2023, Taiwan's state-owned banks recorded a 28.9% decrease in remittances to China, amounting to US$408 billion, and a 30% decrease in remittances from China, totalling US$309 billion. Moreover, the credit extended by 36 Taiwanese banks to China decreased by 15.0% to NT$1.86 trillion (US$58.94 billion).

Moreover, in 2023, the number of Chinese citizens holding valid resident permits in Taiwan was just over 30,000, accounting for approximately 4% of the foreign resident population. 45 Thailand holds the largest PCB exhibition in Southeast Asia The inaugural "Thailand Intelligent Electronic Circuits Conference" concluded successfully on March 2 at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC), with participation from 203 companies. Touted as the largest PCB exhibition in Southeast Asia, the event was a collaborative effort between the Taiwan Printed Circuit Association (TPCA), the Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (TEEMA), the Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI), and the Thailand Printed Circuit Association (THPCA). The Vice Minister of Taiwan's

Ministry of Economic Affairs Lin Chuan-Neng highlighted during his speech at the conference that Taiwan's PCB industry now leads the world in output value. Taiwan has also become a key player in the international ICT supply chain. Lin encouraged young Thai students to join the PCB industry as Taiwan-based PCB firms make large-scale investments in Thailand.

Construction of the 2.3 billion Jinlu Electronics PCB expansion project has begun in China.

According to news on March 7, Jinlu Electronics stated that the construction of the 2.3 billion PCB expansion project has begun, and the company will continue to disclose relevant progress in regular reports.

On February 8, Jinlu Electronics announced that the company plans to sign an investment agreement with the Guangdong Qingyuan High-tech Industrial Development Zone Management Committee to acquire the land use rights of approximately 63 acres adjacent to the company's factory and use some of the existing land in the company's factory for investment 2.34 billion yuan to build a printed circuit board ("PCB") expansion project; it was agreed that the company would use all the excess funds raised from the initial public offering of stocks, 231 million yuan, and its derivative interest and cash management income for the above-mentioned project investment.

The company plans to purchase part of the land use rights of the land adjacent to the existing factory and use part of the existing land in the company's factory to build 2 factories, 1 wastewater station, 1 dormitory and canteen, and 1 chemical warehouse , purchase corresponding machinery, equipment and public facilities and carry out information construction, adding an annual production capacity of 3 million square meters of multi-layer rigid boards and high-density interconnect ("HDI") boards.

It is reported that the implementation of this project can expand the scale of production capacity and solve the production capacity bottleneck of the Qingyuan production base; improve product layout and enhance product competitiveness; make full use of the geographical advantages of the Qingyuan production base and increase market share; strengthen the construction of smart factories and enhance the company's core competitiveness. According to the announcement, this investment project will be constructed in three phases, with construction and production at

the same time. It will take 60 months from the beginning of construction to completion.

Among them: the first phase construction period (including preliminary planning) is 18 months, and is expected to be completed and put into operation in July 2024, with a planned production capacity of 1.2 million square meters; the second phase construction period is 6 months, and is expected to be completed and put into operation in July 2026, with a planned production capacity It is 1.2 million square meters; the construction period of the third phase is 12 months. It is expected to be completed and put into operation in January 2028, with a planned production capacity of 600,000 square metres.

Jinlu Electronics said that after research, based on the 10-year operation period after the project is put into production, it can achieve an average annual operating income of 2.3901188 million yuan, an average annual net profit of 286.6251 million yuan, a project internal rate of return of 15.46%, and a net financial The present value (discount rate 10%) is 276.5094 million yuan, and the static investment recovery period is 8.40 years (including the construction period).

TPCA

International Diary

2024

EIPC @ ECWC16 WECC
April 8-11
Anaheim, USA

EIPC Technical Snapshot Webinar
Registrations via www.eipc.org
May

EIPC Summer Conference
Conference & Visit @ ESA/ESTEC
Tuesday 4 & Wednesday 5 June
Noordwijk, The Netherlands

SMT Nuremberg
11-13 June
Nuremberg, Germany

EIPC Technical Snapshot Webinar
Registrations via www.eipc.org
September

EIPC @ FED Conference
20 & 21 September
Ulm, Germany

EIPC Technical Snapshot Webinar
Registrations via www.eipc.org
October

EIPC @ Electronica
12-15 November
Munich, Germany