



Short Circuit

Electronics Manufacturing Reception

We are delighted to be able to invite you to the fourth in our series of evening receptions specifically tailored for the UK electronics manufacturing and design community. These events have proved to be hugely popular, and the line-up for the next event will no doubt provide even greater insight into the current UK procurement environment.

What's being talked about?

As with our previous receptions the focus will be on business development, in particular the manner in which major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) procure and the criteria they place on suppliers, as well as techniques you can use to increase your success rate.

The key decision-makers who will present on these themes are:

Lewis Doyle, chief information officer and managing director of shared services, QinetiQ

Lewis joined QinetiQ in 2003 and has modernised their operations with new services and enhanced capabilities, and has led significant change in the migration from public sector to public limited company.

Nigel Coghlan, global procurement development manager, Itron Metering Solutions

Nigel is currently working with Itron Metering

Solutions, where his role involves providing support for the global commodity team in terms of Procurement IT systems, resource planning, governance and best practice smart metering.



Why should I attend?

As well as getting expert insight into customer behaviour, you will be able to network with a range of competitors and colleagues from other sectors over cheese and wine.

How much will it cost me?

This event is free of charge to Intellect members and invited guests.

Should you require hotel accommodation, Intellect is able to help you book discounted hotel rooms in the local area. If you would like more information about this or if you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

To book a place or for further information

please contact Camilla Young,
E camilla.young@intellectuk.org

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We've got IT covered

A pocket guide to the world of Intellect...

The Intellect pocket guide has been created to equip you with an easy to understand reference tool that gives you the essential facts about who we are and how we exist to serve our members.

Download the guide at www.intellectuk.org/pocketguide

Getting involved with the STEM Ambassadors Scheme

Aimed at getting more young people interested in science, technology, engineering and maths, the STEM Ambassador programme provides an opportunity for those working in these industries to communicate their passion through going into schools. STEM are looking for people working in the electronics sector to volunteer as ambassadors.

There are a huge number of ways in which Ambassadors can support schools: judging competitions; providing e-mentor careers support; giving 'day-in-the-life-of' talks; explaining research techniques; advising on CV writing, interview technique or work skills; supporting clubs etc.

To find out more about getting involved please visit www.stemnet.org.uk/ambassadors

PoP masterclass to show how the only way is up

OEMs and designers from across the UK will gather in South Wales in November to hear how cutting-edge Package on Package (PoP) technology can transform their operations and competitiveness.

Electronics consultant, Bob Willis, will host a one-day workshop in POP assembly, rework and inspection at Axiom Manufacturing Services, to explain the major space-saving and processing speed advantages of PoP.

PoP technology can eliminate circuitry to reduce the board space required by up to 43% and enable higher-speed processing, given that memory and processor components are positioned in much closer proximity.

It can benefit OEMs across many sectors from makers of handheld point-of-sale devices and office equipment to medical devices, high-end scientific instruments or battlefield communications kit. The convergence of communications, IT and consumer electronics has increased demand for the miniaturisation of devices such as mobile phones and PDAs. PoP not only allows for greater flexibility in designs without the constraints of the size of the PCB it also allows faster processing to increase functionality.

Rob Taylor, senior engineer at Axiom, said, "POP technology is rapidly becoming an attractive choice for OEMs and designers. It's ideal for anyone involved in the production of hand-held

devices with high functionality requiring faster processing speeds. In Japan they are already looking at stacking three and four components on top of each other. This is usually a clear indication of where technology is heading so we are expecting a big increase in demand for PoP over the coming months."

The workshop takes place on Tuesday 24 November 2009 at Axiom's facility in Newbridge. The event is aimed at design, production and quality engineers looking at future technology and topics include the benefits of PoP stack packages, lead-free assembly, PoP placement and a practical session on re-work and inspection. **For more information visit www.askbobwillis.com/PoPworkshops.pdf**

leMRC update

The Innovative Electronics Manufacturing Research Centre (leMRC) is preparing to support a new range of industry focused research projects that will provide new technology for the UK's electronics industry.

The new tranche of funding will be available to researchers from March 2010 and the leMRC is currently positioning itself to commission research from universities around the UK via a series of competitive calls for proposals. During the summer and autumn of

2009, the leMRC has announced calls for proposals varying in scale from those based at a single university to flagship projects involving multiple universities and several industrial partners.

A key aspect of the work the leMRC supports is industrial engagement and successful projects typically have a very strong industrial membership. As the leMRC moves into its second five years of funding, it is keen to strengthen this industrial participation, both in its research portfolio and via its Industrial

Steering Group (ISG). It is the ISG that sets the strategic direction for the leMRC funded research and it would welcome enquiries from industrialists with an interest in joining the group and that have experience in strategy development pertinent to the UK electronics industry.

Details of the leMRC's activities and research portfolio can be found at www.iemrc.org and enquiries about participation in its activities can be sent to iemrc@lboro.ac.uk

Plextek wins 'Consultancy of the Year' accolade

Plextek has been named 'Consultancy of the Year' at the 2009 British Engineering Excellence Awards (BEEAs).

In winning the award Plextek beat off stiff competition from other nominees including Lotus Engineering, Shearline, ARRK R&D and Aardvark Engineering. The BEEA judging panel was impressed with Plextek's range of design capabilities and its market reach within the communications sector - from leading edge chip design to supply chain management - and made particular note of the recent growth in the company's business. The judges described Plextek as, "An excellent capability, high growth consultancy with a low, commercially

inspired cost base that has used its communications technology to crash into the military and paramilitary markets as well as achieving civil expansion."

Colin Smithers, managing director, Plextek commented, "We're extremely proud to be recognised as a shining example of British engineering, especially given the esteemed competition. Following the two Queen's Awards we received earlier in the year, this accolade is further reward and recognition for our team's exceptional talent, dedication and hard work over the last 20 years which has seen us continually developing the best and most effective new technologies for our diverse clients."

Bill Garland, Plextek's software group director accepted the winner's



trophy on behalf of the company at a recent presentation ceremony at The Globe in London. The BEEAs drew over 100 entries and highlighted the best examples of British engineering from start-up companies to design consultancies and established multi-nationals.

www.plextek.com

ACW celebrates 20 years at the forefront of contract electronics manufacturing

Southampton and Tonypandy based contract electronics manufacturer ACW Technology recently celebrated its 20th birthday. With ACW experiencing strong demand during 2009, founder and chairman Chris Woods remains very positive about the future of contract electronics manufacturing in the UK.

"Over the next ten years the UK will very much remain a viable source of manufacturing expertise for those companies prepared to invest in the right people and equipment, and adapt their services to meet customer demand," said chairman, Chris Woods.

ACW Technology Ltd., was founded in

1989 when Woods purchased the struggling manufacturing division of an electronics plc. Re-launching as ACW, Woods and his team have spent the next 20 years turning this operation from a loss-making position into the £50m turnover, growing international business it is today. During this time the company has seen sales increase 50-fold, space 20-fold and employment 15-fold while making a bottom line profit for each of the last 16 years. The majority of these profits are ploughed back into the company to give it a strong tangible asset base.

Looking forward Woods is optimistic for the future. "At ACW we have the right

mindset, committed staff, attractive services and flexibility to thrive over the

next 20 years and beyond. We have learnt not to rest on our laurels. Innovation and providing customers with services and solutions to make their lives easier is essential to the long term success of the UK contract electronics manufacturing and ACW."

www.acw.co.uk



QinetiQ and Vestas claim world first in radar mitigation wind turbine technology

QinetiQ and Vestas Wind Systems have announced the successful trial of a unique radar mitigation technology for wind turbines.

Using a jointly designed 44m prototype turbine blade manufactured by Vestas, the technology was demonstrated at full scale for the first time at a wind farm in Norfolk as part of a programme part-funded by the UK Government Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS).

The five year project has developed 'Stealth Turbine' technology that can significantly reduce the size of the radar signature made by individual turbines to the point where they can be effectively 'factored out' of air traffic control and air defence systems. With 9GW of potential sites currently blocked by objections

from radar operators, this technology could have a revolutionary impact on wind farm planning in both the UK and the rest of the world.

The Stealth Turbine solution uses a portfolio of radar absorbing materials (RAM) that are integrated into the current manufacturing processes for turbine components – blades, nacelle and tower – and which can be designed to operate at aviation and maritime frequencies. These include modified composites for nacelle and blades, and sprayable RAM coatings that can be applied directly onto the tower and other static surfaces.

"We believe that Stealth Turbine technology could be a genuine game-changer for the renewable energy industry by removing a major barrier to



its development," said Mark Roberts, strategic business director for energy and environment at QinetiQ.

He added, "We believe that the ability to leverage our scientific and technical heritage across industries will enable us to continue to develop innovative solutions for the energy sector."

www.QinetiQ.com

CC Electronics Europe launch new website

Phase 1 of the new look website for CC Electronics Europe is now complete. As well as having a new, fresh feel, the site also has some new features with more to be added soon.

Phase 2 (October 2009) will add a customer zone, with online order

tracking around our factory, along with the ability to track your parcel through to delivery. Live news will update you with our current capacity, any offers, and perhaps stock availability.

Phase 3 will see a new online ordering site for www.ccesupplyline.co.uk



Visit the new site at www.ccee.co.uk

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Sponsor Short Circuit

Intellect's monthly newsletter Short Circuit is distributed throughout the UK PCB and EMS industries. Sponsoring an issue means that your company logo, contact details and news article will be seen industry-wide - an effective and inexpensive promotional tool.

If you are interested in sponsoring a future edition of Short Circuit or have any relevant industry news that you would like to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming editions, please contact Claire Leslie on T 020 7331 2050 or E claire.leslie@intellectuk.org

Editorial should be submitted no later than the 07 of each edition month.

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TechKnow: The latest technology news brought to you by Intellect

Whitehall Watch: Fortnightly public affairs digest

Supply chain portal launch

Date: 10 November 2009
Time: 14:00-16:30
Venue: Intellect Conference Suite, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5EE



Intellect is launching its Intellect Supply Chain Portal (SCP) on 10 November 2009. The SCP is an interactive and accessible online portal of information about the supply chain and the three key players – the customer, prime contractor and sub-contractor.

It provides practical advice and guidance to improve supply chain efficiency and effectiveness for each stage of the supply

chain. The Portal has been created by industry for industry. As such, whether you are a customer, prime or sub-contractor, its content will be of interest.

The launch event will hear from a public sector representative, an SME and a prime about their experiences of the supply chain and the mitigating steps that can be taken to overcome the problems that can arise.

Cost: Free of charge to Intellect members
Contact: Theodora Kalessi
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W www.intellectuk.org/supplychainportal

Intellect member information afternoon

Date: 11 November 2009
Time: 14:00-17:00
Venue: Intellect Conference Suite, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5EE



Learn how you can get your money's worth from your Intellect membership...

Intellect is the technology trade association which serves to represent all its members and ensure their voice is being heard. Our free information mornings have been set up due to popular demand to remind you how, as a member, you can benefit from your membership.

There will also be the chance to hear how one of our member companies expanded their knowledge and grew their business by being a member of Intellect.

These sessions are designed to inform you of our business offerings and how we can support you.

Cost: Free of charge, Intellect members only
Contact: Francesca Sbuttoni
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W www.intellectuk.org/events

Smart metering conference

Date: 26 November 2009
Time: 09:00-18:00
Venue: Kings Place, 90 York Way, N1 9AG
Supported by the ERA



Intellect is running a conference for industry - those whose expertise and knowledge will make the deployment of smart meters across the country happen. The project announced by Government is monumental, and will require organisations across the country, from small niche providers to large systems integrators, to come together to provide the solution and deliver the results.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together and connect the supply chain, helping suppliers interact and build relationships with each other and with the

other key stakeholders.

In October 2008, the Government announced its decision to mandate a rollout of smart meters to domestic electricity and gas customers by 2020.

The project will require each of the country's 26 million homes to be fitted with new gas and electricity meters which will allow customers to monitor their energy consumption on easy-to-use digital devices.

Cost: £195+VAT Intellect members, £295+VAT non members
Contact: Claire Bradbury
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