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- The Car
- 2013 Electrical Wire Processing Expo
- Is Bigger Better in the Wire Harness Business?
- Wire Wisdom Over View of Common Field Tests
- Six Road Blocks When Designing High Voltage Connectors and Assemblies



Altex

By Fred Noer

"Work smarter, not barder."

f Altex were to adopt a slogan, this may very well be it. The phrase aptly describes the prevailing philosophy at the company, which manufactures custom wiring harnesses, cable assemblies and electromechanical assemblies. The firm is headquartered in Westfield, Ind., (at the far north end of the Indianapolis metropolitan area) and has a plant in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

To be able to work smarter, transparency is emphasized at the company. "There is a lot of sharing of information," said Rick Bromm, 51, vice president of business development. "We need every-

one to be critical thinkers. If people are without a good understanding of the whole company, they can't make good decisions about what they do and how it affects the big picture.

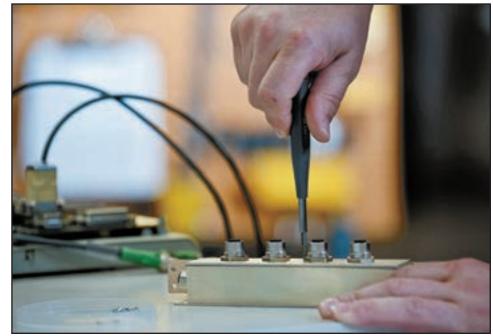
"Ultimately their understanding flows down from the corporate goals and objectives," Bromm said. "Then they can make better decisions at the front lines and have autonomy to what they're doing. It definitely has contributed to our execution and performance."

Such a focus on intelligence and empowerment of the 57 people (17 in administration, 40 in production) at the two facilities has proven effective. Bromm stated Altex should gross \$9 million in sales by the end of the year. That would represent an 11-percent gain over 2012. He foresees the same growth next year. In 2009-12 the company grew 37 percent.

When Altex concentrated on making



The 2013 National Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo broke records once again as it was held May 8 and 9 at the Delta Center in Milwaukee. See page 29.



ALTEX builds electro-mechanical assemblies— including circuit boards, instrument panels and cable harnesses — to customer specifications.

passenger car wiring harnesses and seatbelt lock systems in the 2000s, company sales peaked at \$13 million. "We grew at a good clip when we rode the automotive industry wave," Bromm said. "Our revenues were higher, but now we're making better profit. When automotive declined, so did we. It's good we saw that, managed it and diversified."

Even with the recession at its height

in 2008-09,Altex made money, according to Bromm. "We've always had a strong balance sheet," he said. "We finance our operations through cash flow and cash on hand."

Such overall expert financial management is attributed to Altex president Ben Weidberg, 64, MBA and CPA. He bought

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6 Road Blocks when Designing High Voltage Connectors and Assemblies

By David Galambos, President Canton Connector Corp

Designing a High Voltage cable assembly and connectors can be very challenging. There are many aspects of the cable assembly that must be considered. Before beginning the design you must answer some general, but very important questions like: What is the operating voltage and current? What type of environment will the cable be operating in? Will the cable be required to meet any specifications? Are there any specific requirements from the customer? After you have answered these first round questions you can begin drafting a design. We have come up with the six most common design road blocks and tips on how to avoid and overcome them.

Size Constraints:

Size constraints often make the challenge of designing a High Voltage connector and cable assembly extremely difficult. Generally the High voltage cable assembly is the last piece of the puzzle that customer's think about when designing their equipment. Often times the space required for a high voltage connection that meets their operating requirements isn't available. The industry is constantly moving towards smaller lighter assemblies with increased oper-

ating thresholds. Using spacing to offset high voltages has become a thing of the past. Companies now look to the design team to come up with a solution that will resolve these issues and still keep the cost of the cable assembly down. Generally a custom connector design is required to achieve this goal.

Designing around an existing connector:

Designing around an existing connector can prove to be extremely difficult. Customer's come in with an existing connector that they cannot deviate from. Generally these connectors are not performing up to their requirements, or mates to another component which is a grandfathered part of their design. Another reason could be the connector needs to perform at an increased performance threshold that cannot be met with the current configuration. Whatever the case may be an in depth analysis of the inner working of the connector assembly is required. Working closely with the customer, the engineering team will analyze all aspects of the design what materials are utilized? What are the mechanical and electrical properties of the materials? What aspects of the design can be changed to meet the required specification without effecting

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_Continued on page 4





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JULY/AUGUST 2013

Altex

Altex, headquartered in Westfield, Indiana manufactures custom wiring harnesses, cable assemblies and electromechanical assemblies.

6 Road Blocks When Designing High Voltage Connectors and Assemblies

Six of the most common design road blocks and tips on how to avoid and overcome them.

The Car

Paul Hogendoorn reminds readers of the many impacts that cars have made in our society.

News Plugs

Read about the latest products on the market and points of interest about companies and people in the industry.

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Is Bigger Better in the Wire Harness Business?

In a world economy that often favors the "big guy", the wire harness industry is still a place where the creative entrepreneur can find exceptional growth opportunities.

2013 Electrical Wire Processing Expo

The 2013 National Electrical Wire Processing Expo broke records once again. For photo coverage please see pages 34-35.

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Wire Wisdom

This Wire Wisdom provides a summary of three key regulations that apply to products used in the Euorpean Union.

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6 Road Blocks when Designing High Voltage Connectors and Assemblies

Continued from page 1

the fit, form and function of the design?

Cost:

With the economy in its current state a major hurdle in HV design can be keeping the cost down. This can prove to be difficult when trying to design a reliable, effective, robust connector that meets or exceeds the customer's requirements. A lot of times performance ends up taking a backseat to reduced cost. There are a few techniques used to minimizing cost without compromising on performance. By uti-

lizing existing materials that are stocked and readily available, using hardware from existing designs and incorporating them into the new design. By using existing tools, molds, and jigs and designing new components from cost effective materials that won't compromise on performance.

Manufacturability:

The manufacturability of the design is a key component. The design may look good on paper but can it be built easily. The difficulty of the design effects the direct labor time required to build the cable assembly which affects the cost. The difficulty of

the design also affects the ability to maintain a repeatable, reliable process. If the process is not repeatable you will have inherent cable failures. These potential processing issues should be caught and addressed during the design review

Materials:

Selecting the correct material with the required performance characteristic and maintaining design effectiveness is critical. High voltage cable assemblies and connectors require materials to perform well both electrically as well as mechanically. A careful analysis of the operating environ-

ment and how it will affect the materials is key. Using dissimilar materials can prove to be problematic. A good adhesion between materials is critical when trying to offset high voltages. Without a good adhesion between the materials there is nothing to offset the voltage accept the air which requires designing components with greater distances between the high voltage and ground. Using similar materials allows for a cohesive bond between them effectively offsetting the high voltage allowing for smaller connectors. If dissimilar materials are to be utilized in the design the use of primers and adhesion promoters has proved useful depending on the material you are trying to bond to.

Corona:

A corona free design can sometimes prove to be extremely difficult. A well designed corona free cable assembly will ensure reliable, resilient cable assemblies that stand the test of time. There are many aspects that must be considered when designing a corona free design. The first thing is choosing the right cable. Most designs utilize a triple extruded cable. This ensures the conductor and ground is smooth and uniform. Next is the connector interface. The interface should allow for adequate distance to offset the applied voltage and also to remove any air.

For further information contact Caton Connector Corp, 26 Wrapping Rd, Kingston, MA 02364. Phone (781) 585-4315 or Fax (781) 585-2973. Visit www.canton.com.



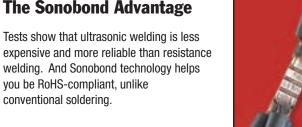
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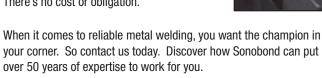
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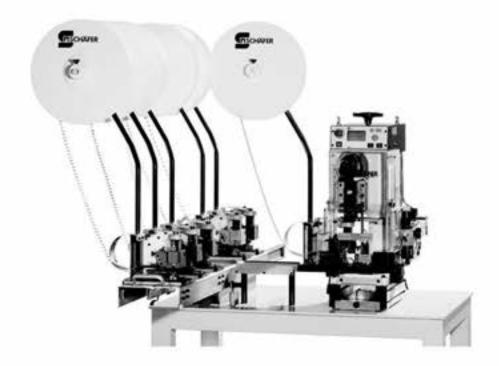












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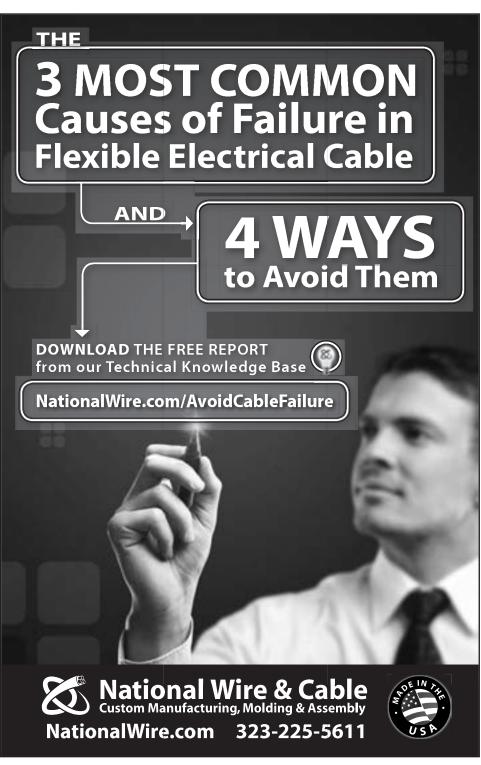
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The Car

By Paul Hogendoorn

Cars.

If it wasn't for cars, our society wouldn't be what it is. There is far more to that statement, however, than just the obvious. Cars have made such a significant impact in our society, far more than we ever may have realized. Aside from transportation and the convenience we often take for granted, and the creation of the suburbs and highway systems that make our worlds smaller and distant points more accessible, the existence of cars has positively affected our society's economy in ways no other single device or industry ever has, or may ever do.

Manufacturing creates more direct and indirect employment than any other sector. For every direct manufacturing job, there is said to be up to 7 indirect jobs. Every one of those jobs creates personal wealth and income, mostly for people in the middle class. And automotive manufacturing is the largest sector within manufacturing, as well as being one of the best paying.

But automobile manufacturing benefits our economy in far more ways than just the 7 times employment factor of the major factories. Steel companies produce the steel needed by the suppliers



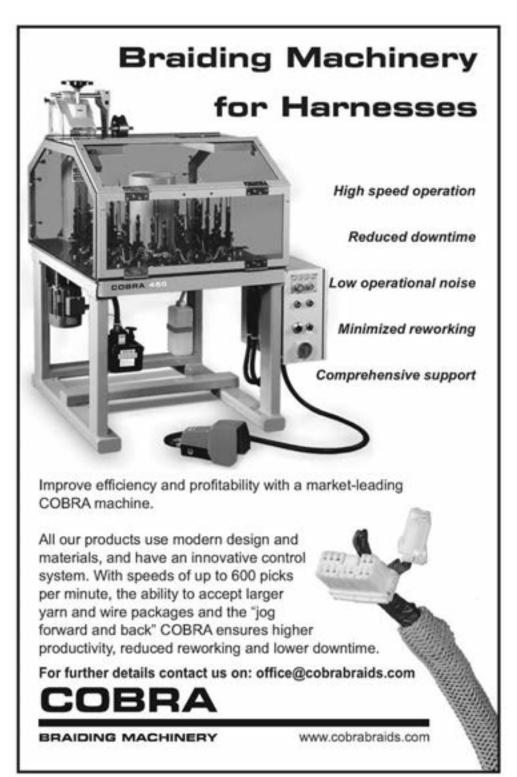
Paul Hogendoorn

and assembly operations; mining companies mine and deliver the raw material for the steel industries; rail systems are operated and built to support the mining industries. From the mining of ore, to its conveyance to the steel plant, and its subsequent transport to the automobile factory, many hard working people receive a fair remuneration for their daily efforts.

And beyond that, the economic contributions of the car continue. Dealerships and service centres abound, each one employing several dozen people, selling and servicing them. Fuel stations outnumber service centers, and each of them employs people and provides a

_Continued on page 9





Mando Can Do.



When Armando Zacarias goes out on a Eubanks service call, unusual things happen.

"Once I helped round up a cow that got loose in a customer's plant.

"Another time, while driving to a customer's site, our rep's car caught fire. We eventually arrived there that night and finished the job in time for the morning shift," Mando reports.

Customers report something unusual too: Mando's "can-do" attitude.

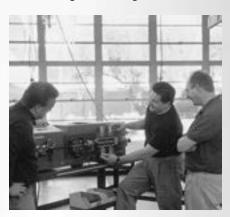
George Price, vice president of J&M Products, for example, writes how Mando takes time to answer questions, explain machine operation and even gave "tips on stripping some shielded cable that others said could not be done."

"Can't be done" is not in Mando's vocabulary—either English or Spanish.

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the UK based software developer Cadonix, chose the Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo (EWPT Expo) for the worldwide launch of Arcadia, their ground breaking Cloud based wire harness design and analysis tool that will change the way automotive design is performed.

Arcadia is the world's first cloud-based general & automotive CAD tool, offering schematic design, animated circuit simulation & analysis, electrical networking, harness design and full design rule checking.

Using a fine balance of cloud back-end and HTML5 front-end the team at Cadonix have achieved what would have thought to be impossible even a year ago, fully scalable vector graphic CAD editing at an enterprise level all accessible from a compliant web browser.

Traditionally such software required a large client footprint, network based licensing servers, a large IT support presence and was file-based with long response times from the software manufacturer to upgrade features and functionality. In a single blow Cadonix have removed all the customers pain

points to present a scalable, futureproof solution.

Offering an end-to-end solution from conception to fully produced harness design, cutting lists, bill of materials and design rule reporting from anywhere an engineer cares to be located, Arcadia offers a quantum leap in flexibility over the competition.

For ease of distribution, licence management and minuscule footprint Arcadia is set to be a hit with IT support as well as engineers.

There is even an Arcadia 'app' to keep those engineers and service technicians on the road happy by

> providing full access to their schematic and harness designs; hinting a mobile future for the platform.

> Currently launching right now at the 13(th) annual Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo in the Milwaukee - USA, Arcadia is proving that UK companies can still turn out world class engineering solutions.

With several of the biggest UK and international automotive companies interested in the product, it looks like the next car you will be driving could well have been designed using Arcadia.

When asked, a company founder, Andrew Armstrong stated that harness wiring was merely the beginning of the toolset that will be provided by Arcadia and that CAD and design management tools for all industry sectors are on their way, including aeronautical, rail and military wiring solutions.

Check out the website at http://www.cadonix. com or via international Distributor Caresoft at http://www.caresoftglobal .com/arcadia.html.

Those who unable to make it to the show are welcome to ask for a demonstration via any of the contact methods on the website or by contacting:

USA: Mr. Devendra Auti, Senior Director, Sales. +1-630-273-3222 Email: Arcadia@caresoftglobal.com

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The Car

INDUSTRIAL INFO-TAINMENT

Continued from page 6 _

convenient refilling service. Refineries work 24/7 turning crude into useable fuel to keep the gas stations supplied, and oil drilling operations offer many lucrative employment opportunities to keep the supply of crude flowing to the refineries. From the harvesting and conversion of natural resources, turning oil and ore into fuel and metals, the automobile industry creates an enormous amount of society's wealth. Converting the raw materials into finished products then increases that value exponentially. Add to that the ongoing economic benefit of the automotive support industries, and it's hard to imagine where we would be without the car.

Our roads and highway systems would not be what they are, if we didn't have the cars to use them. Infrastructure projects include more than just roads and bridges, but it's easy for me to believe that building and maintaining our car related infrastructure employs more people than all the other public infrastructure projects combined.

Our middle class is eroding, and so is our government's ability to fund the social safety nets that our society enjoyed for what may soon seem like a historical anomaly. Public education and healthcare, transportation and public infrastructure, ample clean water and sanitation, pensions for the old and safety nets for those unable – all of those wonderful things may have been created by inspired leaders and put into place by motivated governments, but they were paid for by the wealth created in our society by our wealth creating industries. And the biggest among these is – or was - our automotive industry.

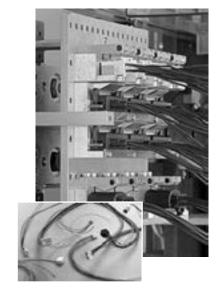
As I sit in the driver's seat of my car, comfortably traveling from point A to point B, I think about these things. We passively watched our once great industries leave our shores, and we educated our kids to believe many of these jobs were below them. Now we wonder why we can't afford what it is we have come to expect.

If there is another industry out there that can generate the kind of individual and collective wealth that the car did for the last hundred years, I say "bring it on!". But until one emerges, let's hold on a little tighter to the industries we have. They are what brought us here, and it was the car, more than anything else.

Paul Hogendoorn is a self-described "incurable entrepreneur". He recently founded TPI Associates to help emerging business leaders achieve their vision. For more information on these topics, please visit www.tpi-3.com. He can be reached at paul@tpi-3.com

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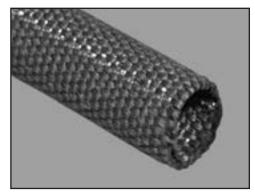
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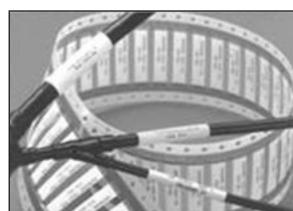


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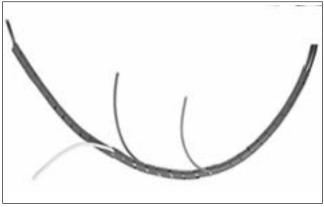


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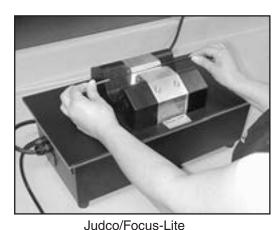


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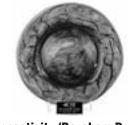








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teristics, weight & space savings and are ideal to meet the reliability requirements of continuous motion, welding robots and automation assembly systems.

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Through the use of a patented process of encasing individual components, each Flexx-Sil™ Cable can incorporate any of the following: feedback pairs, shielded control wires, power conductors, tubing for liquid or air transfer, video conductors, FlexRail™ Self-Supporting Flat Cable System and Cicoil's Patented StripMount™ Fastening Strip, all combined in a single condensed cable design, precisely controlling the inner component spacing, jacket thickness and the overall cable shape. Custom and Standard Cables are available in continuous lengths, cut to order, or as assemblies, complete with connectors of your choice,

100% tested and inspected for peak electrical performance, quality and reliability.

Cicoil's Flexx-Sil™ Jacketed Cables are UL Recognized, Class 1 Clean Room Rated, CE Conforming, RoHS & REACH Compliant, and are manufactured in an automated, climate controlled environment. In addition, these environment-friendly cables are 100% contaminant-free and exceed the outgassing requirements of ASTM E-595.

Cicoil has been a leader in designing and manufacturing high performance cable assemblies for over fifty years. The company's unique Flexx-Sil™ flat cables provide high flexibility, extremely long life, and they can withstand temperature extremes from -65 degrees to +260 degrees Celsius. Cicoil's flat cables are used in thousands of demanding applica-



Flexx-Sil™ Flat Cables

tions; including aircraft fuel control cells, semiconductor automation, and the Space Shuttle. Cicoil designs and manufactures its Flexx-Sil™ jacketed cables and cable assemblies in an automated facility in Valencia, California. Cicoil's quality assurance system is certified to the ISO 9001 (AS9100) standard. Visit www.cicoil.com for more information, or call 661-295-1295 to speak to an application engineer.

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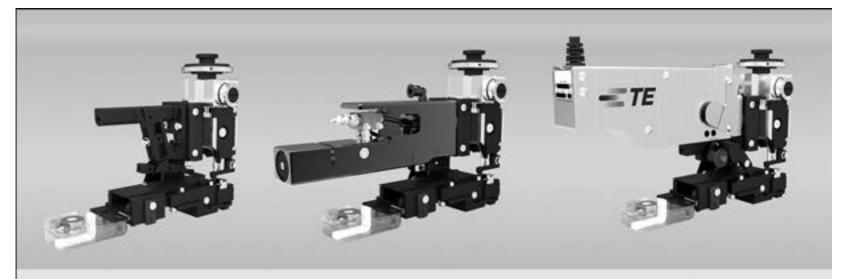




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TE OCEAN APPLICATOR SERIES

NEW APPLICATOR FEATURES DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE IMPROVED PRECISION AND REDUCED SETUP TIMES

Crimping standards continue to rise to higher levels of quality and repeatability. Taking customer input and market demands into consideration, TE Connectivity (TE) has created the new Ocean Applicator series to meet those higher demands and to take terminal crimping to a new level.

By consolidating our past applicator offering, TE was able to provide design consistency and tooling standardization to the market. One of the resulting benefits to customers of this consolidation is flexibility in the choice of feeding options: new and improved mechanical and pneumatic feeds along with the innovative and precise servo feed option. The new Ocean Applicator series design also allows customers to perform field upgrades to system III and Smart Applicator technology. It provides an upgrade path for terminal intelligence that allows the machine to obtain set-up features as the applicator is upgraded.

- One applicator platform modular family design
- Two ram interface styles
- Three interchangeable feed options (mechanical, pneumatic or servo)
- Smart Applicator Integration

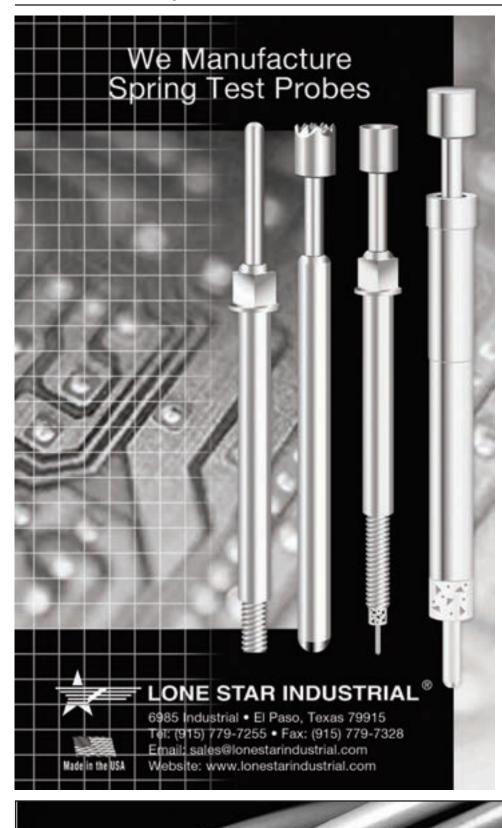
For all your application tooling needs, contact Heilind Electronics or visit heilind.com/rpages/te_oceanapp.



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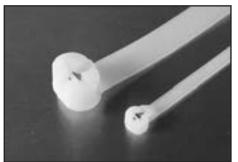
NEWS PLUGS continued



BURNDY Announces Addition of Stainless Steel Barb Cable Ties (Type CT-SSB)

BURNDY, a leading manufacturer and provider of connector solutions to the industrial, energy, construction, telecommunication, petrochemical, data center, and transportation industries, announces the addition of Stainless Steel Barb cable ties to their wire management system. Stainless Steel Barb cable ties are designed and manufactured to meet or exceed industry standards to deliver maximum reliability.

The Stainless Steel Barb Cable Ties (type CT-SSB) are Nylon 6/6 with self locking stainless steel barbs and an oval low profile head. There are no sharp edges which helps prevent damaged cables. CT-SSB ties have a low threading force of any one piece design cable tie in the industry. CT-SSB ties have a curved tip for faster initial threading to help speed installation and a no slip tail for easy grip during tensioning. CT-SSB ties are currently avail-



Stainless Steel Barb Cable Ties

able in Natural and UV Black.

Headquartered in Manchester, New Hampshire BURNDY has over 85 years of dedicated customer support in both service and product. Our customers need to look no further than BURNDY for all their connector, tool, and accessory needs with our BURNDY Engineered Systems of coordinating dies, connectors and tools. The three elements have been specifically designed to work together and engineered to meet stringent, accepted quality standards – providing the user complete confidence in the integrity of the connection.

Contact BURNDY at 47 E. Industrial Park Dr, Manchester, NH 03109. Call Customer Service at 1-800-346-4175, or visit website www.BURNDY.com

FTZ Industries Launches Patented Cool Seal® Connector in Europe

FTZ Industries launched its Cool Seal® connector product line on the European continent at the Commercial Vehicle Show, with support from Wessex Technical Products Ltd., Cool Seal® distributor for the United Kingdom. "The Cool Seal® product line was enthusiastically received during the three day event," said Thomas "T" Quinn - FTZ President & CEO. "This heat-less splice is the most innovative and cost effective sealed electrical connector to be introduced into the market in 30 years." The Commercial Vehicle Show is highly regarded as the most productive sourcing and selling trade show opportunity for the entire UK road freight transport and logistics industry.

_Continued on page 14

DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT WIRE PROCESSING EQUIPMENT?











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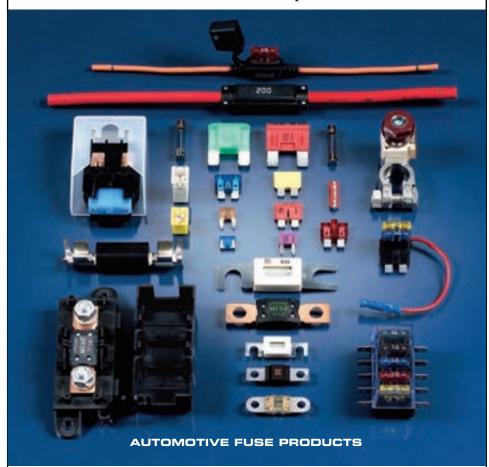
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FTZ Industries Director of Sales and Marketing Stuart Pinholster and WTP Ltd. President Steve Wevill, launched the Cool Seal product line in Europe during the Commercial Vehicle Show held at the NEC Convention Center, Birmingham, England.

Continued from page 12

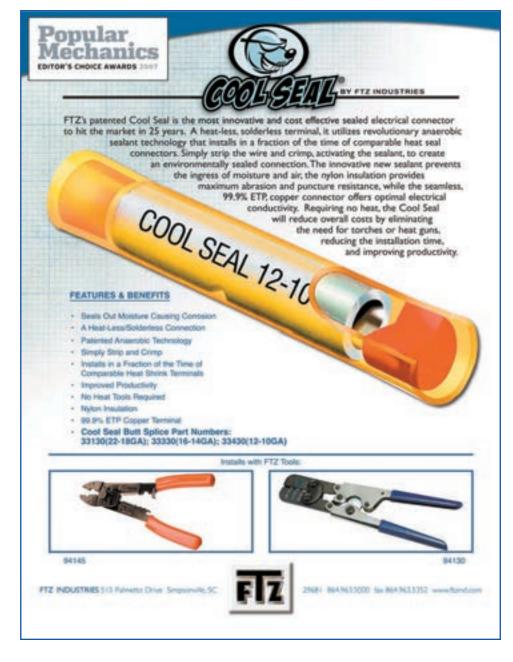
FTZ's patented Cool Seal® utilizes a revolutionary anaerobic sealant technology that installs in a fraction of the time of comparable heat seal connectors. Requiring no heating tools, the user simply strips the wire and crimps, activating the sealant, to create a moisture resistant sealed connection. The advantages of the splice include significant labor savings, increased safety as no heat is required, and ease of use in the field. The splice is available in three international sizes: 92-18AWG (0.5-1mmsq), 16-14AWG (1.5-2.5mmsq), and 19-10AWG (4-6mmsq).

Headquartered in Simpsonville, SC, FTZ Industries is a division of ILSCO Corporation and an ISO 9001 manufacturer and distributor of electrical connectivity products for the automotive, marine, heavy

duty trucking and industrial plant maintenance industries. ILSCO Corporation, privately held and headquartered in Cincinnati, OH, serves the following markets in the electrical industry: OEM's, MRO's Utilities, Construction & Industrial (C&I), Residential, Telecom and Renewable Energy. Established in 1894, ILSCO Corporation has manufacturing in the USA, Canada and Mexico.

For information contact FTZ Industries, 515 Pallmetto Dr., Simpsonville, SC 29681. Phone (864) 963-5000 or Fax (864) 963-5352. Email info@ftzind.com or visit www.ftz ind.com.

In the United Kingdom/Europe contact Steve Wevill, President WTP Ltd. 28 Oakgrove Rd, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants, England SO50 6LL. Phone 023 8064 2707 or Email: steve.wevill @wtpltd.co.uk. Visit website: 222.cool-seal.co.uk.



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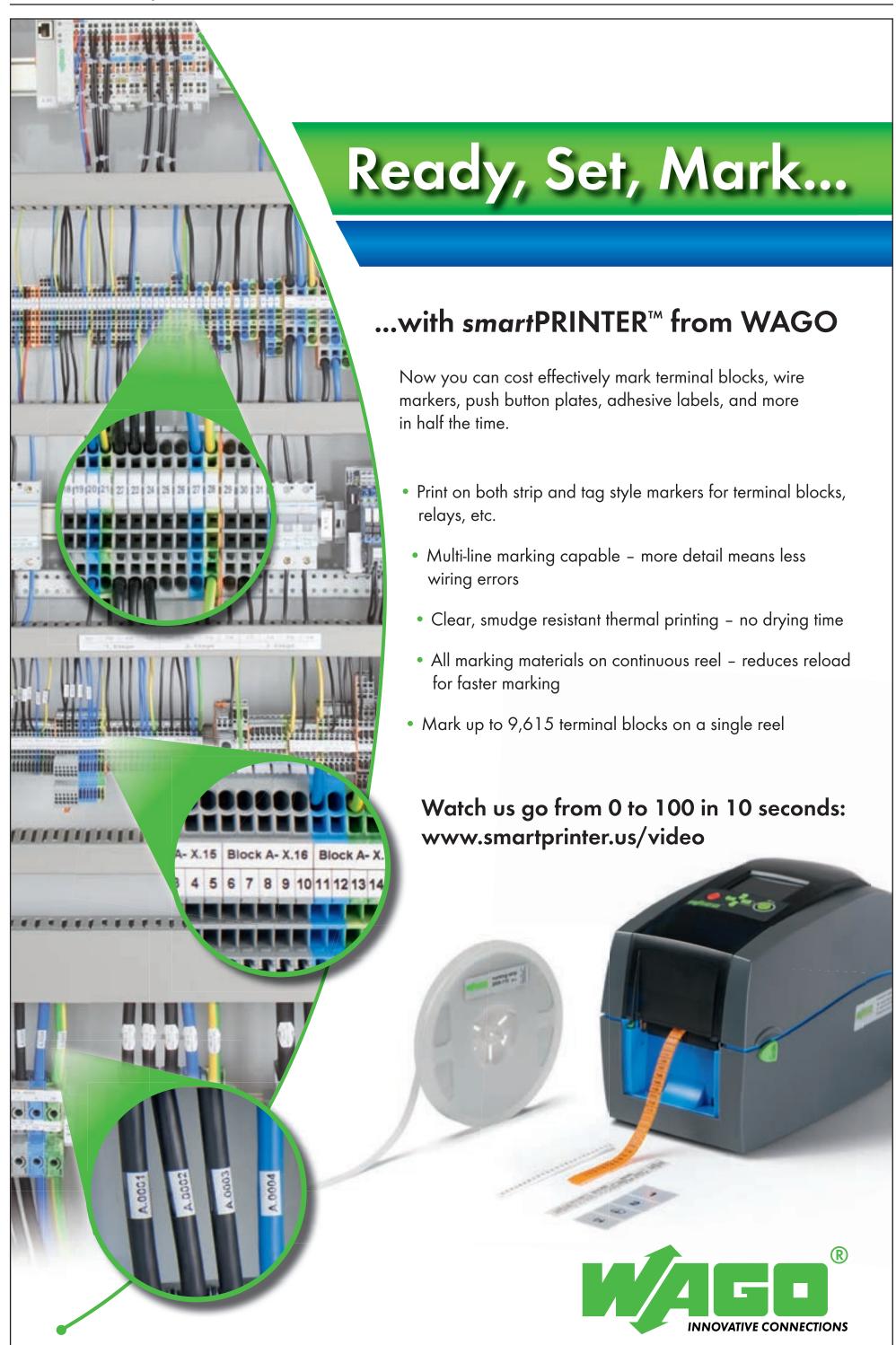
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NEWS PLUGS continued



CaetanoBus Streamlines its Electrical Design Processes Using Capital Software from Mentor Graphics

Mentor Graphics Corp. and CaetanoBus announced successful application of the company's Capital® software suite to the development of CaetanoBus' flagship C5 coach. The C5 coach offers a wide range of configuration options and includes innovative electrical/electronic systems that significantly boost efficiency, safety, and reliability. The sophisticated nature of these systems drives challenges for the coach's electrical design, particularly with

respect to systems integration, design validation and configuration management. To solve these challenges, the Portugal-based company used the Capital tools.

The Capital suite spans an extended electrical systems, "Define - Design - Build - Service" flow, and is particularly targeted at transportation applications. Combining powerful design automation and modern enterprise integration capabilities, the software creates digital continuity within the electrical domain to compress development cycle time and deliver significant cost reductions.

"To develop such an advanced coach requires not only powerful design automation, but also a comprehensive

_Continued on page 18



CaetanoBus streamlined its electrical design processes using Capital Software from Mentor Graphics.

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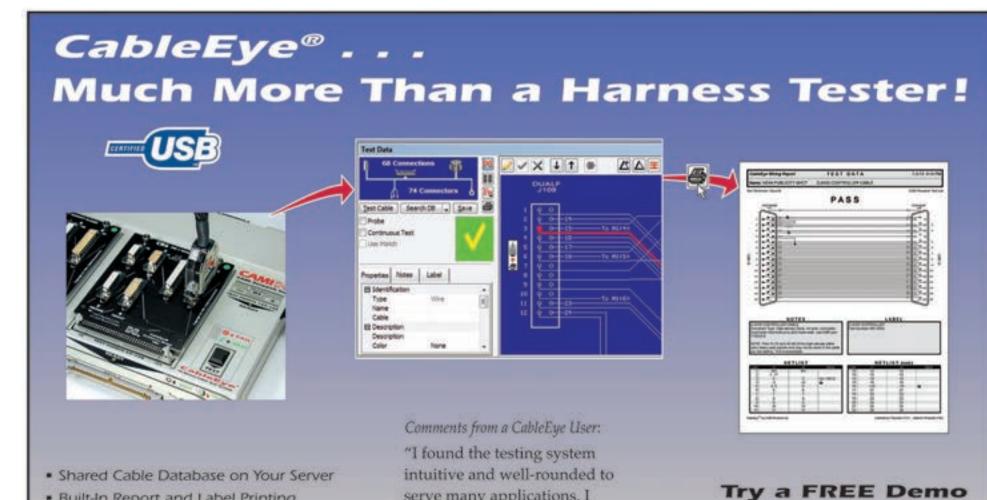
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NEWS PLUGS continued



Continued from page 17

and robust electrical design data foundation for all stages of design, manufacturing and after-sales support," said José Costa, director of Vehicles and Chassis Development, CaetanoBus. "We have initially applied the Capital software to create electrical schematics and harness designs. The modularity of the system is important to us because it allows us to extend the scope progressively with everything using the same data foundation - we have plans to extend our virtual prototyping capability using advanced electrical simulation and validation tools. We are also investigating how to streamline our service documentation authoring process using the Capital publication tool which can reprocess our wiring diagrams."

Electrical engineering is becoming more complicated because of the rapid increase in customer options, which is driving an explosion in the number of configurations that need to be designed and manufactured. "Engineers can use the Capital suite to design multiple configurations with the same ease as creating a single configuration because the system can capture and automatically apply the engineering constraints needed. They can work faster and more accurately than with traditional systems," said Emilio Villa, managing director of Har-Tech S.r.l., Mentor Graphics' distributor in Portugal.

"Capital software is broadly adopted across several major truck brands and by an increasing number of bus and coach manufacturers. In part, this is because the tool suite supports a number of different design flows," said Martin O'Brien, general manager of the Integrated Electrical Systems Division at Mentor Graphics. "The toolset is both flexible and easily adaptable to changing future needs, as well as being highly productive. This flexibility and power explains why many of the world's leading truck, bus and coach manufacturers have adopted the Capital suite, with deployments in multiple locations in Europe, USA, Asia and Japan."

Mentor Graphics is a world leader in electronic hardware and software design solutions, providing products, consulting services and award-

> winning support for electronic, semiconductor and systems companies

> For further information contact Mentor Graphics Corp., 8005 S.W. Boeckman Rd, Wilsonville, OR 97070-7777. Website: www.mentor.com.

SEA Wire and Cable, Inc. Receives Notice of Qualification to WC27500-2012

SEA Wire and Cable, Inc. announced that it has received approval from Naval Air Command to manufacture products in accordance with WC 27500-2012. This initial approval is effective as of the date of the Qualification Test Reference 15443801. AAI05-31-13.

"The SEA team has worked diligently to acquire this certification to satisfy our customer's needs for flexible solutions," stated Marty Clark President and COO of SEA Wire and Cable, Inc. "More importantly, it demonstrates that SEA is committed to maintaining its position as a world-class mil-spec cable supplier," Clark said.

The approval applies to all products produced in the Madison, Alabama facility for groups 1, 6, 8, 10, and 12.

SEA Wire and Cable, Inc is a leading supplier of wire, cable, tubing, termination sleeves, cable ties, EMI/RFI back shells, connectors and other cable assemblies for the aerospace and military markets. Founded in 1970, SEA has served for 40 years as a premier distributor in the military and aerospace industry.

For more information on SEA Wire and Cable: www.sea-wire.com.



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Introducing high-quality metric-size solderless ring terminals featuring insulated Avikrimp™ and un-insulated VersaKrimp™ seamless barrel types. The terminals provide maximum electrical performance for metric crimps using studs up to 10mm in diameter and wire size up to 6mm2.

Solderless ring terminals meet UL requirements only when crimped using Molex recommended tooling; however terminals may be crimped with a variety of industrystandard tooling.

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Is Bigger Better in The

Wire Harness Business?

Loren M. Smith, CEO Blue Valley Capital

any sectors of our economy are populated with huge multi multinational companies whose very size creates a defensible competitive advantage. In many industries the immensity of these companies create competitive barriers that make it impossible for smaller companies to compete successfully. We hear that phrase, "Too Big to Kill".

If this real size advantage applied to the wire harness industry, we would have seen a consolidation years ago. Instead, the wire harness industry continues to be highly fragmented with literally hundreds of small and medium size harness manufacturers (under \$50M revenue) serving a plethora of niche markets. The linkage between the wire harness manufacturers and their customers requires a level of service and flexibility that very large (billion dollar revenue) organizations struggle to provide

While there are some very large wire harness manufacturers, it's not clear their size is an advantage. It's interesting to note that several of the largest harness companies have gone through bankruptcy and or been bought out at a

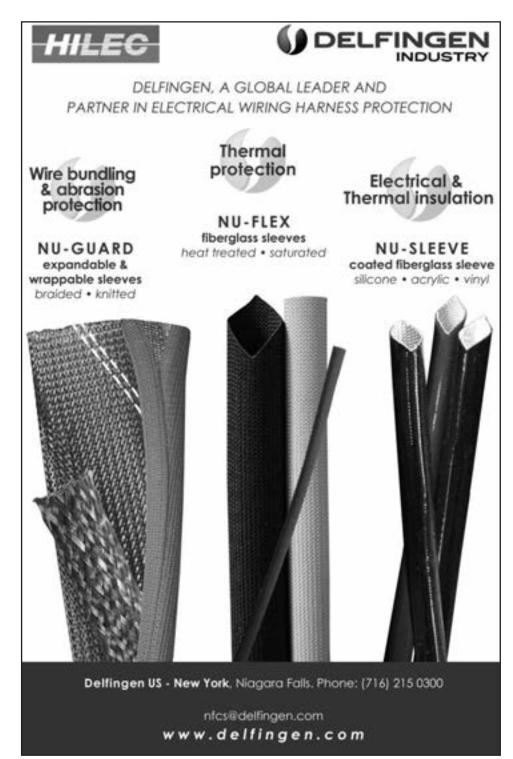


Loren M. Smith, CEO Blue Valley Capital

bargain price.

Although it's conceivable that large organizations can always develop and maintain highly responsive customer driven cultures, it's not clear that has occurred in the wire harness industry. What I have observed is in fact quite the opposite; it's not uncommon for small harness companies to be given the opportunity to replace their very large competitors. When this happens it's because a customer perceives a service/flexibility/and attitude deficiency.

_Continued on page 20







Is Bigger Better in The Wire Harness Business?

Continued from page 19 _

The lesson is that the dysfunction associated with multiple layers of management can create competitive disadvantage.

I you are a small or medium harness manufacturer why might this be interesting to you? Because if you are looking for growth opportunities, you should not discount your ability to compete with the "big guys".

Wire harnesses customers care about one thing; getting the highest quality and best service at the lowest cost. There are absolutely no cost advantages very large harness manufacturers possess compared to their much smaller competitors. There are plenty of small harness companies who have created business models with cost structures that can beat the big guys hands down. When it comes to service and flexibility in particular, a small harness company can run circles around a much larger competitor.

I am by no means suggesting this is an easy path for small or medium size harness manufacturers to find the cracks that provide an opening to outperform the big guys; it takes a comprehensive sales/marketing effort because it's not possible to predict when you might find that opening. In a world economy that often favors the "big guy", the wire harness industry is still a place where the creative entrepreneur can find exceptional growth opportunities if he or she is truly focused on finding ever better ways to serve their customers.

After decades in the industry, I am still excited to see small entrepreneurs finding new ways every day to keep an American manufacturing industry, which is often overlooked because of the negatives of high customer concentration and labor intensity, strongly competitive in the global market place.

Loren Smith can be reached at lms@blvcapital.com or www.bluevalley-capital.com

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Mini style applicators with mechanical feed mechanisms are supplied in a variety of feed configurations. Adaptable to most crimping presses.

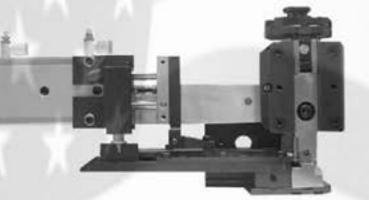




Model 1700

Model 2000

Pneumatic feed mini-style applicators can accommodate terminals with center to center distances up to 2 inches.

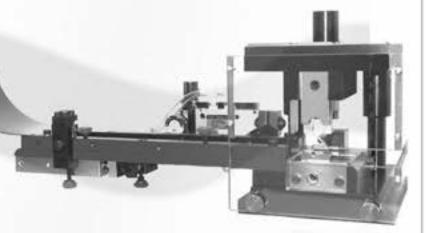




Model 1500

Model 2100

DSA applicators are designed for large terminals manufactured from heavy gage material with center to center distances up to 3 inches and widths to 3.5 inches. Available in left to right, right to left and rear feed configurations.



DSA Series

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NEWS PLUGS continued



Development Board for Xtrinsic sensors now available from Newark element14

Newark element14 announced the launch of its multi MEMS development board for Xtrinsic sensors, a low cost enablement solution that allows designers to easily understand and test the latest sensing technologies with a next generation accelerometer, pressure sensor and a magnetometer to measure motion, altitude or pressure, detect magnetic fields and determine physical posi-

This new board, which retails at \$26.99 is available through Newark element14 in North America, Farnell

element14 in Europe, and element14 in Asia Pacific.

Designed to work with a range of key applications including mobile phones and tablets, remote controls, game consoles, navigation and medical devices, the new development board for Xtrinsic sensors offers design engineers real flexibility and comes with a Freescale Freedom FRDM-KL25Z platform to help demonstrate the sensor board functionality. The FRDM-KL25Z is an ultralow-cost development platform enabled by the energy-efficient Kinetis L Series KL1x and KL2x MCUs families built on the ARM Cortex-M0+ processor.

Device drivers and sample codes are also included to cater for the easy evaluation and demonstration of the performance of the sensors to measure motion, altitude, pressure, the detection of magnetic fields and physical position. In addition, each of the development boards comes equipped with a USB cable and quick start guide.

"With its precision sensing capabilities the new development board for Xtrinsic sensors is an ideal companion for the Freedom platform and gives developers a low cost, low barrier to entry solution for evaluation and development," said David Shen, Group CTO at Premier Farnell. Newark element14 is the North American operating brand of Premier Farnell, plc [LSE: PFL], one of the world's largest distributors of electronics components. "The need for accurate, real-time sensing is becoming pervasive and we are excited about the opportunities this new platform offers our customers."

"We are looking forward to seeing

the kind of ideas design engineers will produce using this new platform, and Premier Farnell [Newark element14]'s proven distribution channels and lively element14 community will play a significant role in fuelling those concepts," said Babak Taheri, vice president and general manager of Freescale's Sensor and Actuator Solutions Division. "With its intelligent integration and next-generation sensor tools, this new Board delivers smart, differentiated applications to users in a wide range of focus areas, helping them maximize the design potential of their projects."

Newark element14 offers design engineers a space to share project concepts with 170,000 members in its award-winning online community element14, the first of its kind. Additionally the industry's most comprehensive online knowledge resource for electronic design, the Knode on element14, is a first stop for any engineer undertaking a design project with a development kit.

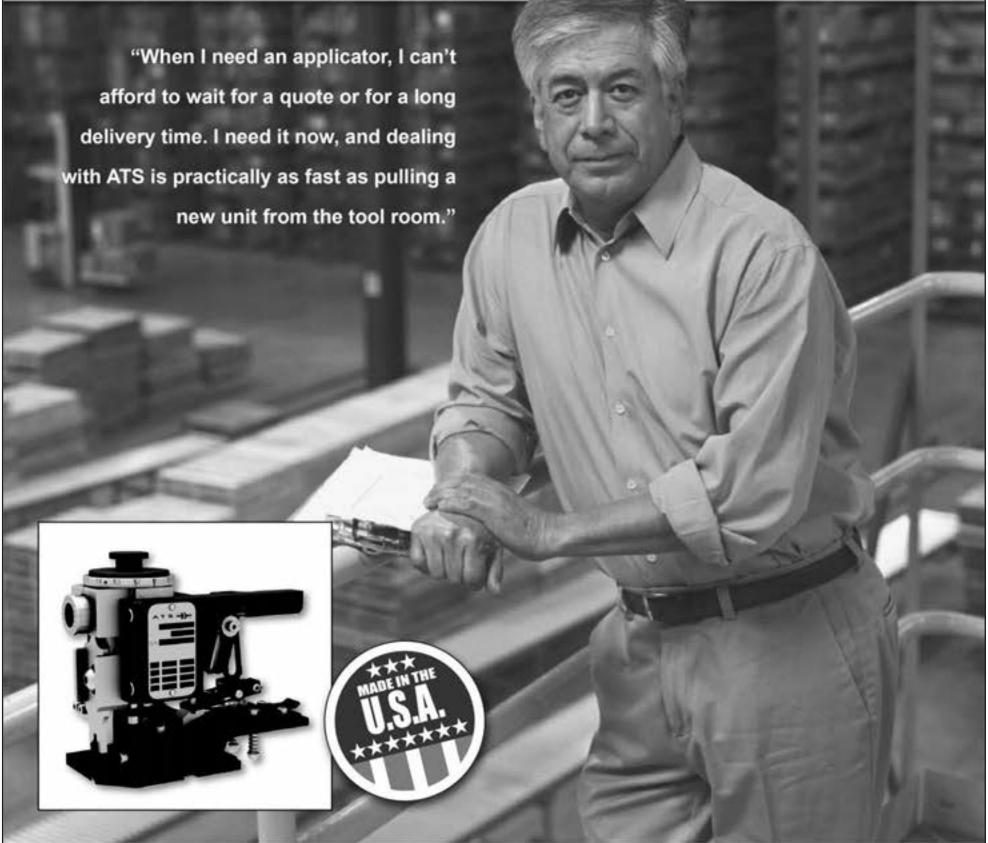
Key features of the multi MEMS development board for Xtrinsic sensors include:

- Xtrinsic MPL3115 highprecision pressure sensor
- Xtrinsic MAG3110 lowpower 3D magnetometer
- Xtrinsic MMA8491Q 3axis digital accelerometer
- FRDM-KL25Z Freescale Freedom Development Plat-
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NEWS PLUGS continued



Continued from page 22

engineering solutions for electronic system design, maintenance and repair. Newark element14 brings together the latest products, services and development software, all connected to an innovative online engineering community where purchasers and engineers can access peers and experts, a wide range of independent technical information and helpful tools. Newark element14 is the operating business of Premier Farnell plc (LSE:pfl) in North America and Mexico.

Derek Laffey Joins Teknor Apex as Western Region Market Development Representative for the Vinyl Division

Teknor Apex Company has appointed Derek Laffey market development representative for the Vinyl Division, focusing on the western U.S. and Mexico, it was announced by David Cobb, western regional sales manager.

Mr. Laffey will play a key role in developing new business for PVC products manufactured by the division, including Apex flexible and rigid vinyl, BioVinyl™ compounds with bio-based plasticizers, Flexalloy vinyl elastomers, and Fireguard low-flame, low-smoke compounds for wire and cable.

"Derek brings valuable experience from a recent successful career as an entrepreneur and from previous sales positions with responsibility for serving the Mexican market—one of them being with Teknor Apex in the 1990s," said Mr. Cobb. "He combines technical expertise with an excellent understanding of new business development, marketing, and sales."

Derek Laffey first joined Teknor Apex in 1992, serving as a technical service engineer and then as area sales manager for Mexico and Canada. He left the company in 1999 to enter a full-time MBA program that included a six-month internship in Argentina. Subsequently he was a product manager for Rain Bird Corporation, with responsibility for international sales in the U.S. and Mexico. Starting in 2004, he founded, developed, and eventually sold two successful internet startup companies.

Mr. Laffey holds a BSc degree in



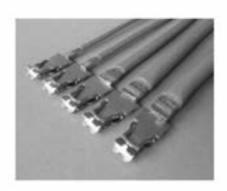
Derek Laffey, Teknor Apex Western Region Market Development Representative

Stapla Ultrasonics

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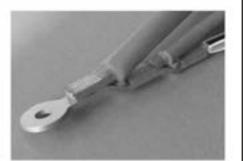


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- •Integrated Systems















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mechanical engineering from Villanova University and an MBA in international business from the University of South Carolina and speaks fluent Spanish

The VINYL DIVISION of Teknor Apex Company is a leading manufacturer of compounds based on PVC. Headquartered in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, U.S.A., the Division is an international supplier to the appliance, automotive, construction, medical device, wire and cable, and other industries. Parent company Teknor Apex operates manufacturing facilities around the world and sells in 90 countries. Six of the eight Teknor Apex business units focus on plastics compounding, including bioplastics; color concentrates; nylon; thermoplastic elastomers; toll and specialty compounds; and vinyl. Visit www.teknorapex.com.

Scott Pihl promoted to V.P. of Operations for PJC Technologies, Inc.

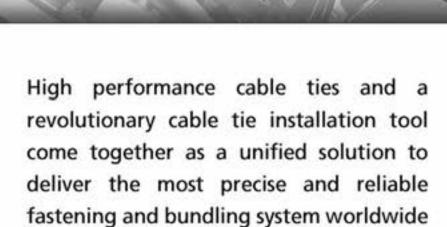
Burhan Capar, CEO of PJC Technologies owners of Metro Circuits of Rochester, New York and Speedy Circuits of Huntington Beach, California has announced the promotion of Scott Pihl to the position of Vice President of Operations.

In his new position Mr. Pihl will be responsible for all operations including Production, Engineering, and Quality for both divisions owned by PJC Technologies.

Mr. Pihl has been with the company for twenty vice years, during that time he has held a number of key positions including Plant Manager, General Manager and most recently Corporate General Manager.

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NEWS PLUGS continued



Continued from page 24 _

When making the appointment Mr. Capar commented, "Scott certainly has paid his dues with us. He has proven himself to be a key player in the corporation's success and that's why we are very excited about his assuming this new position in the company as we move forward with our initiative to develop a more synergistic and cohesive corporate structure by combining both divisions of our management team into one."

Mr. Pihl added, "I consider it an honor to be promoted to this corporate position, of which will allow for our two factories to leverage best practices and strategic resource deployment, hence enabling our success in delivering world class products and services to our customers."

Speedy Circuits & Metro Circuits are industry leading fabricators of high reliability advanced interconnect technology for high frequency microminiaturization, phased array & AESA radars, sensors, antennas, manifolds, radiators, tiles, MCM substrates, and high speed flip chip applications utilizing Flex, Rigid Flex, and Rigid / Hybrid constructions that are produced in QTA cycle times allowing for time to market execution; as well as production volumes with standard delivery

enabling affordability and seamless technology insertion. For more information visit: www.speedycircuits.com or www. metrocircuits.com

SEA Wire and Cable, Inc. Receives Notice of Qualification to WC27500-2012

SEA Wire and Cable, Inc. announced that it has received approval from Naval Air Command to manufacture products in accordance with WC 27500-2012. This initial approval is effective as of the date of the Qualification Test Reference 15443801. AAI05-31-13.

"The SEA team has worked diligently to acquire this certification to satisfy our customer's needs for flexible solutions," stated Marty Clark President and COO of SEA Wire and Cable, Inc. "More importantly, it demonstrates that SEA is committed to maintaining its position as a world-class mil-spec cable supplier," Clark said.

The approval applies to all products produced in the Madison, Alabama facility for groups 1, 6, 8, 10, and 12.

SEA Wire and Cable, Inc is a leading supplier of wire, cable, tubing, termination sleeves, cable ties, EMI/RFI back shells, connectors and other cable assemblies for the aerospace and military markets. The company is headquartered in Madison, Al with offices worldwide.

Founded in 1970, SEA has served for 40 years as a premier distributor in the military and aerospace industry. For more information on SEA Wire and Cable: www.sea-wire.com.

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TR202 Series

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ShinMaywa automatic wire terminating machine guarantees high quality not only in automotive industries but in household appliances. Halogen free wires can be processed by above all series.

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SERIES



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The 2013 Electrical Wire **Processing Technology Expo**

By Joe Tito **Wiring Harness News**

the 2013 National Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo broke records once again as it was held May 8 and 9 at the Delta Center (formerly Frontier Airlines Center) in Milwaukee. A total of 2,257 attendees from OEM's and harness manufacturers combed over 43,000 square feet of exhibit space at the 13th annual event. Total traffic was up 22% from the previous year, with 870 attending the show for the first time.

There were 163 exhibitors at this years show, representing a 20% increase. The Delta Center opened an additional hall to accommodate larger booth requests, along with the plethora of new exhibitors. Still, even that wasn't enough to handle exhibitors pouring in at the last minute wishing to exhibit in this increasingly popular show. Cheryl Luck, Sales Manager for Expo Productions, Inc. (EPI), the shows producer, mentioned, "Even with the increased space, this is the first time in the show's history I had to turn folks away."

The Exhibitor Advisory Committee goes to great lengths to provide an informative array of free seminars for attendees. Certificates of Completion are provided after all of the seminars as

they are designed to provide continuing education credits for various industry accreditations.

Day one began with an update on aluminum wire from Don Price of USCAR, and continued with a look at crimp validation by Keith Nicholas of TE Connectivity. Josef Liebl of SLE rounded out the day, speaking on the integration of micrograph laboratories in harness production.

Day two kicked off with a survey of the Revision B updates of IPC/WHMA-A-620, given by Jack Crawford of IPC International. Gustavo Garcia-Cota of Schulenburg guided attendees through a discussion of crimp force monitoring, and John Crawford of Anixter reviewed materials on environmental compliance. The seminar rooms were provided courtesy of Wire and Cable Technology.

EWPT Expo sponsors provide attendees and exhibitors to some wonderful entertainment and hospitality perks that just aren't available at other shows. Assembly Magazine provided the popular Beer-N-Brats party during exhibitor set-up, and an Exhibitors Breakfast was sponsored by The Delta Center on Day 1. The Day 2 Exhibitors Breakfast was presented by Wiring Harness News.

Continued on page 31

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More photo's from the 2013 Electrical Wire Processing Expo are on pages 34-35.

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www.cirris.com/cabletesters.html



Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo

Continued from page 29

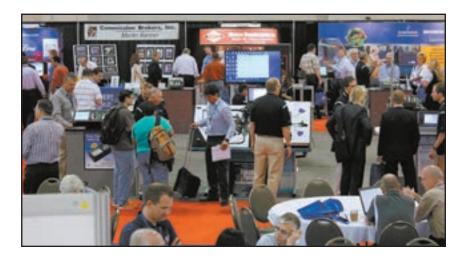
Attendees also enjoyed stellar hospitality with a Day 1 AM Break sponsored by Komax and a PM Break held by Schafer. Always a great networking event, the After Hours VIP Party was co-sponsored by Komax and Wiring Harness News. It featured incredible buffet stations and live jazz music. There was an AM Break for Day 2 attendees provided by Mechtrix, and WHMA provided Lobby Coffee both days. Another favorite of attendees was the Day 2 Bloody Mary Bar provided by Mecal by Starn. Wiring Harness News also provided a Business Center, Cyber Cafe and massage services at the show.

Marilyn Magowan, Editor for Wiring Harness News described the show as the seminal showcase in technology development for the wire harness industry. "It's certainly our pinnacle event, and it gives us a chance to thank our readers and learn about trends in the industry." She feels confident the expo provides a unique opportunity for members of the industry to connect, and added, "When the industry achieves its goals, then we certainly have achieved ours."

EPI, the shows managing partner, provides a level of service to both exhibitors and attendees that is beyond comparison. Their friendliness and high level of attention keeps both coming back. But Jay Partington, President of EPI, is quick to share the glory. "A lot of the things we do that folks enjoy happen because of our sponsors; especially Wiring Harness News," he stated. He also points to the efforts of a very active Advisory Committee in shaping the ever increasing success of the show.

Jay is very excited about the direction of the show for 2014, as he plans to add more educational opportunities to the already dynamic schedule. But the most notable change for 2014 will be efforts made on the international scene, as the show changes it's name from the National Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo, to International. EPI intends to place much more effort in promoting the show internationally. "Our larger exhibitors said our show is now recognized as a major event with worldwide prominence," said Jay, "and it's very exciting to attract this audience."

There was one additional record broken at the 2013 show that would make residents of the host city proud. Last year, exhibitors and attendees enjoyed 12 kegs of the city's finest brew. With expanded overall attendance, and some additional hospitality venues, this years show boasted a 50% increase, with18 kegs served over the two day event. It might be the beer that made Milwaukee famous, but the efforts of the sponsors, EPI, and The Delta Center, will keep folks coming to the International Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo.





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DMC Introduces One-Step Application Tools for EMI/RFI Shield Termination Bands

Daniels Manufacturing Corp in Orlando, FL introduces One-Step Application Tools for applying "stamped-low-profile" style EMI/RFI Shield Termination Bands. These tools provide an option/solution for users accommodating to the new AS85049/128 specification which assigned dedicated tooling for the two different band styles (stamped-low-profile and welded buck-

DMC's One-Step Banding Tools tension, secure, and cut the band without the use of a secondary tool to secure the band. The DBS-2100 applies the .250 wide M85049/128-3 and M85049/128-4 bands and meets the requirements of M81306/1-01. The DBS-2200 applies the .125 wide M85049/128-7 and M85049/ 128-8 mini-bands and meets the requirements of M81306/1-02.

The One-Step Band Application Tools are built to M81306/1, constructed to survive the demands of production and maintenance use, and remain precisely adjusted to provide a quality band termination. The tension-lock system gives the operator a positive indication when the precise tension has been applied. The Cut-Off handle easily cuts, bends, and locks the shield band in one step.

For more information, contact Daniels Manufacturing Corp (DMC), 526 Thorpe Road, Orlando, FL 32824, 407-855-6161. Email dmc@dmctools.com or visit www.dmctools.com







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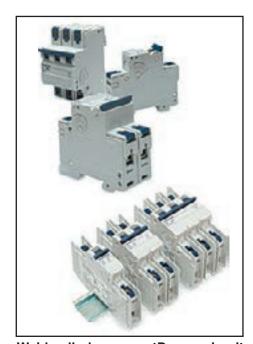
NEWS PLUGS continued



Wider Protection with connectPower from Weidmuller

In efforts to strengthen an already extensive circuit protection product offering, Weidmuller introduces two new models to the connectPower line of DINrail mounted circuit breakers. Weidmuller's new BR Series circuit breakers are UL 489 Branch rated and the new SU Series circuit breakers are UL 1077 approved for Supplementary protection.

Weidmuller's lever-operated breakers



Weidmuller's connectPower circuit breakers are designed to tackle industry's dirty jobs.

use thermal-magnetic technology, having ratings up to 277/480V and 60A in 1, 2 and 3 pole formats, and are available immediately with C or D trip characteristics. The ranges are designed for industrial control applications, especially where the control equipment may be in an environment that needs to resist vibration and mechanical shock.

A compact 17.5mm width on the rail is part of an attractive package for the connectPower circuit breakers. Weidmuller's BR Series and SU Series circuit breakers give users the option of using either wire-end ferrules or ring lug terminations for the supply and load, as well as UL-approved bus-bar accessories to simplify and reduce the installation time. To maximize security and safety, the operating lever can be locked, off or on, and even the IP20 connections can be supplied with optional touch protection caps.

Weidmuller supports customers and partners around the world with products, solutions and services in the industrial environment of power, signal and data. The company develops innovative, sustainable and useful solutions that set standards in Industrial Connectivity today and continually work toward providing solutions for the technology challenges of tomorrow.

The Weidmuller Group owns manufacturing plants, sales companies and representatives in more than 80 countries.

For further details on Weidmuller's circuit protection range visit www.weidmuller.com



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TE Connectivity Offers Closer Look at Advanced End-to-End Connectivity Solutions

TE Connectivity (TE), along with newly acquired DEUTSCH, featured the latest ruggedized, next-generation, high-speed connectivity solutions at the 2013 Paris Air Show Exhibit, Hall 2B, Stand G121, June 17-23 in Paris, France.

TE featured the following connectivity solutions:

Solutions for Avionics – Reduce SWaP with open architecture and eliminate bottlenecks from backplane to I/O. Achieve the full capabilities of sophisticated avionics with high-speed connectivity to help enable excellent monitoring and control of flight systems. Come see our advanced fiber optic, high-speed copper systems, and the next generation of industry-standard connectors and cables.

Solutions for C4ISR – End-to-end connectivity for communications, command/control, computing, intelligence, surveil-

lance and reconnaissance. Package your electronics with high-performance interconnection solutions that help make it easier to create Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) and Line Replaceable Modules (LRMs) from the board to the box to the I/O. Help protect cabling with rugged, sealed harnessing components and still meet future needs for higher bandwidth, lighter weight and easier handling.

Electrical Wiring Interconnection System - Optimized performance and reliability in severe aviation environments with system and component compatibility. Save significant space and weight with our thin-wall cables, composite connectors, and optiinterconcal nects—all offering advanced performance based on our expertise in materials science to create highly reliable next generation products.

Engine Power and Distribution Interconnects – Helps provide improved survivability in harsh environments and wide operational temperature ranges, also high-

vibration certified. Manage power more cleanly, efficiently and reliably with relays and contactors in compact, lightweight packages in aircraft switching applications for low, medium and high current and high voltage.

In-Flight Entertainment and Cabin Systems – Boost cabin performance with flexible in-flight entertainment, web access, automated gallery systems, and high-speed networking. Provides interconnection solutions based on standards such as ARINC 664, GAIN, and 4GCN to achieve the right combination of performance, modularity and flexibility.

For more information on any of these connectivity solutions, contact the Product Information Center at 1-800-522-6752 or visit www.TE.com/ParisAirShow.

Fujikura Introduces the FOCIS PRO

Fujikura Europe Ltd (FEL) introduces the family of FOCIS PRO automatic fibre inspection solutions. Providing network

personnel with an automated solution for analysis and documentation of fibre connector cleanliness and integrity, the FOCIS PRO completely eliminates the subjective aspect of fibre inspection.

Designed for all inspection tasks, FOCIS PRO is a powerful, easy-to-use alternative to existing inspection solutions. The optical resolution and detection specifications exceed current international standards, and software-based applications are upgradeable making FOCIS PRO solutions truly future-proof.

"With the substantial growth in data traffic and associated higher data rates, the demand for exceptional performance of network systems is becoming more and more crucial," explained lan Tweedle, Sales Manager for FEL's test equipment division. "It is therefore imperative that fibres are clean and free from defects. The FOCIS PRO delivers a solution for these specific requirements."

The FOCIS PRO System consists of the



The FOCIS PRO is the latest addition to the Fibre Optic Connector Inspection Scope Range

DFD1 Touch Screen Tablet, DFS1 Digital FibreScope, and the new SimpleView™ PRO software. The system is capable of

_Continued on page 40



BT 3500 Battery-Hydraulic Hand Tool

More Than a Ton of Portable Power in a 1.4 Pound Hand Tool

The BT 3500 Battery-Hydraulic Hand Tool is designed to provide the ultimate in flexibility, modularity, and powered efficiency in a lightweight, ergonomic, powerful crimp unit. It's compatible with SDE dies, CERTI-CRIMP II, Double Action, Large Die C and Heavy Heads, using the appropriate adapters.

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Despite the lightweight of the power unit, the tool can produce approximately 250 crimps between charges. This is made possible through a ten ounce, 10.8 Volt Lithium-Ion battery that can re-charge in only 25 minutes, thereby giving plenty of time for production.

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Part Number	Supplied I.D	Shrink I.D.	Price (1000pc. bag)
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MW3-150-1/4	1/4"	.0833"	\$64.96
MW3-150-3/8	3/8"	.1250"	\$97.43
MW/3-150-1/2	1/2″	1667"	\$106.29

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NEWS PLUGS continued



Continued from page 40

centring a fibre image, identifying critical core, cladding, adhesive and contact zones, while detecting and categorising the types of defects found. The software analyses a typical fibre in less than five seconds. Its 'Zoom/Pan' feature combined with a large, clear and robust display enables users to identify the smallest particles, scratches and imperfections.

Unique to FOCIS and FOCIS PRO products is the patent-pending paired image feature which allows users to make immediate fibre cleanliness comparisons. FOCIS PRO users can capture and save up to 1000 fibre images, review images on-site,

and share images via USB memory sticks or SD flash cards. All basic FOCIS units can be upgraded to the functionality of FOCIS

FOCIS PRO is the most advanced Fujikura fibre inspection product on the market, unique in its ability to combine automatic analysis, inspection and reporting features, with superior handheld ergonomics.

Established in 1885, Fujikura is a world leading manufacturers of communication and electronics products offering a diverse product range from its core business of electric wire and cables to fibre optic and related products.

For more information about FEL products and services, visit www.fujikura.co.uk

KOA Speer Receives Top Supplier TTI Awards for 2012

KOA Speer Electronics, a leading supplier of passive electronic components,

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KOA Speer Electronics received the Platinum Level, Diamond, and Best Quality Awards from TTI.

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When the alarm goes off in the morning, the coffee maker turns on and your smart phone is fully charged, it's a direct effect of the work we all do—and that's just in the first few seconds of your day.

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With every year, BURNDY continues to invest in and strengthen our Small HYDENT™ terminal options with:

- New technology that provides better quality control
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- Jars that have an engineered design, making it easy to see, store and use Small HYDENT™ terminals

With a foundation in simple, copper solderless terminals, today's Small HYDENT™ terminal line responds to 21st-century needs.

Making Your World Easier



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1-800-346-4175 USA | 1**-603-647-5299 international** 1-800-387-6487 Canada | www.burndy.com announces that they have once again received the Platinum Level, Diamond, and Best Quality Awards from TTI. The TTI Supplier Excellence Award Program represents the highest recognition possible of a supplier's performance within TTI. The program is centered on quality measurements that include: on-time delivery, receiving quality, customer-reported quality, administrative quality, operations and business systems.

KOA Speer has been a Supplier Excellence Award recipient in 17 of 18 years that TTI has presented the awards. The Platinum Level Excellence Award is an honor that can only be achieved after superior performance for a minimum of 5 consecutive years. This year also marks the third consecutive year that KOA Speer receives the Diamond and Best Quality awards, which are awarded to the suppli-

er with the overall highest point achievement, and to the supplier who scores the highest in each of the possible Quality categories.

Melanie Pizzey, TTI Vice President Global Product Operations, said, "The TTI Supplier Excellence program has been instrumental in fostering continuous improvement in supplier and distributor performance since the program's inception in 1995. Each year we raise the bar in our program and the suppliers who earned recognition for 2012 performance have demonstrated their dedication and commitment to excellence."

"We are extremely pleased to receive these three awards from TTI," Christopher Forbes, KOA Speer National Distributor Sales Manager stated. "Additionally, achieving these awards not only represents the dedication of all KOA employees to TTI, but also management's commitment and overall operating philosophy for excellence."

TTI, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway company, is a specialty distributor of passive, interconnect, electromechanical and discrete semiconductor nents. TTI is the distributor of choice for industrial and consumer electronics manufacturers worldwide. TTI's extensive product line includes: resistors, capacitors, connectors, potentiometers, trimmers, magnetics, circuit protection, filters, electromechanical and semiconductor discrete devices. TTI provides a broad array of supply chain services to its customer base. TTI along with its subsidiary Mouser Electronics, employs 3,800 with 100 locations throughout North America, Europe and Asia. TTl's previous acquisitions include Mouser Electronics, Sager Electronics, Mateleco, France, Net-Aye, Israel, Campbell Collins, U.K., and NPCS Autotronics, China. For more information about TTl, visit www.ttiinc.com.

KOA Speer Electronics, an ISO 9001:2000 and TS-16949 certified company, has served the electronics industry since 1980. KOA Speer's wide range of products includes thick and thin film resistors, current sensing resistors and resistor arrays; thermal sensors, fuses and varistors for circuit protection; wire wound, multilayer, power and thin film inductors; ceramic capacitors and ferrite bead EMI/EMC filters; and diodes, LTCC's and modules. The company has introduced over 200 new products in the

past few years.

KOA Speer Electronics is an affiliate of KOA Corporation, whose global presence includes corporate headquarters in Japan, a European sales office and twenty-four manufacturing facilities located throughout the Pacific Rim. The KOA Speer product family of surface mount and leaded passive components is ideal for diverse markets including telecommunications, computers, automotive, consumer and industrial controls.

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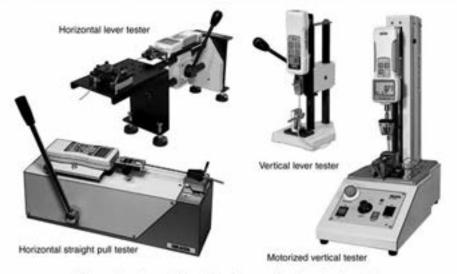
The all-new WT3-200 wire terminal tester is an integrated solution for measuring wire and tube termination pull force. An ergonomic lever easily produces up to 200 lbF (1,000 N) of force forwire diameters up to 0.25 in (6.3 mm). The WT3-200 includes a long list of features and functions, such as data outputs via USB, RS-232, and Mitutoyo, on-board data storage for 1,000 readings with statistical calculations, password protection, and more. It can be operated on a rechargeable battery power, or AC. All at a competitive price of just \$2,195.

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In every issue of Wiring Harness News Anixter will bring you informative articles about wire and cable technology.

Heat Shrink

Over View of Common Field Tests

ield tests can be broadly **◄** grouped into three categories: acceptance, maintenance and fault location testing. Conducted on wire or cable after an installation but before placing it into service, an acceptance test detects installation or shipping damage that might affect cable performance. After the cable has been placed in service, maintenance tests detect inservice deterioration. On the other hand, fault location tests pinpoint the exact failure site in a cable. Knowing exactly where the cable has failed permits the cable to be repaired or replaced as necessary.

A few of the most common test methods are described below.

MEGGER TESTING

A Megger® test uses a megohm meter to test the insulation properties of such things as electrical wiring, motor windings and high-power antenna mounts. Normally conducted on 600-volt power cable for either acceptance or maintenance purposes, a megohm meter typically applies 600 to 2,500 DC voltages for several minutes to the cable. The megohm meter measures the current "leaking" through the insulation and displays the results in units of resistance (i.e., megohms or millions of ohms). A reading less than 100 megohms indicates a possible cable problem. Even though Megger is a registered trademark of Megger Limited Group, the term is widely used for all similar tests regardless of manufacturer.

HIPOT TESTING

The hipot (high potential) test is an acceptance or maintenance test and is normally used on cables rated 5 through 35 kV and higher. Like the Megger test, this device applies DC voltage to a cable and measures current leakage through the insulation. Unlike the Megger test, the applied voltage is considerably higher (up to 65 kV for a 15 kV cable, for example) and the results are displayed in units of microamps (µA). With the hipot test, a high reading (for example greater than 100 µA) indicates a possible problem. Because of the potentially lethal high voltages involved, this test must be performed only by qualified personnel.

_Continued on page 44

VISA



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- End Caps
- Wire Management Products
- Flame retarded Materials



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- High Tensile strength rubber compound 1,200 to 1,500 psi ASTM D-412

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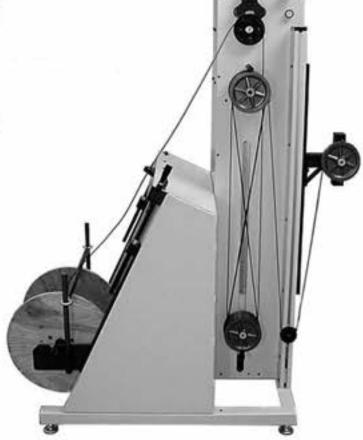


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- ShinMaywa
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 and many others...
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Mechtrix has designed a number of unique machines to solve specific wire processing problems. These machines range in complexity from our patented center stripping machines to terminal paper winding machines. These machines include:

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- Terminal Paper Winding Machines
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ANIXER

Continued from page 42

CONTINUITY TESTING

The continuity test, which can be used on virtually every type of wire and cable except optical fiber, is probably the easiest and least expensive field test available. A handheld multimeter con-

ducts the test by using a resistance setting to check the wire or cable for accidental contact between copper conductors due to damaged or defective insulation. A multimeter can also be used to check for conductors that have been broken somewhere along the cable's length. The continuity test can be used for acceptance, maintenance or fault location testing.

THUMPER TESTING

A thumper is a fault location device that applies a high-voltage pulse to a cable to determine the exact location of a cable failure. It works by applying a brief (millisecond) high-energy pulse to the cable. At the point of the cable failure, the injected energy is released with a loud bang similar to that of a firecracker. When the test is performed on cable buried several feet underground, a muf-

fled thump is usually heard above ground. The cable is usually thumped several times a minute until someone walking the length of the cable run can locate the point of failure.

OTHER TEST METHODS

- LAN cable testers (measure attenuation, crosstalk, and impedance)
 - Time domain reflectometers
 - Optical time domain reflectometers
- Resistance-based fault location equipment
 - Capacitance-based fault location equipment
 - Arc-pulse fault location equipment
 - Very low frequency
 AC test
 - Online/offline partial discharge
 - Series resonant AC test set

Additional Information on field test can be found on pages 122-127 of Anixter's 2013 Wire & Cable Technical Information Handbook. To order your copy, visit Anixter.com/litera-

ture/wchandbook.











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With over 260 locations in 50 countries and more than \$1 billion of inventory, Anixter is a global leader in the distribution of electrical and electronic wire and cable, industrial automation products, network cabling solutions and supporting products. Anixter's unparalleled industry expertise and highly trained sales specialists can help you find the best solutions for all of your product and service requirements. Teaming with Anixter allows you to shift the responsibility of your current supply chain processes, so you can better focus on your core competencies. Through its READY!SM Material Management Services, Anixter will work with you to design a program that makes sure you receive the right materials when, where and how you need them.



If you have the responsibility of designing, specifying or ordering wire and cable, visit anixter.com/literature/wchandbook to download a copy of the Electrical and Electronic Wire & Cable Technical Handbook.

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NEWS PLUGS continued



How Export Control Reform Will Impact Business

Recent and additional expected changes to International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and Export Administration Regulations (EAR) will impact electronics companies that manufacture for the aerospace and defense markets. These regulations specifically address printed boards and printed board designs and affect the entire electronics supply chain, from OEMs to printed board manufacturers and designers.

This July, IPC — Association Connecting Electronics Industries® will offer an ITAR/EAR webinar series, bringing the latest information on current changes, possible upcoming changes and the impact these regulations may have

these regulations may have on the supply chain.

On July 9, 2013, Fern Abrams, IPC director of government relations and environmental policy, will present, "U.S. Export Control Reform Efforts & Next Steps: Current and Future Impacts on the Electronics Industry." Abrams will cover the implications of export control reform (ECR) for PCB manufacturers and suppliers, status of the ECR process and when final regulations are expected to be announced and the status of IPC's initiatives.

On July 16, Kerry Scarlott, Esq., a director at the law firm of Goulston and Storrs, will present, "The Importance of Complying with U.S. Export Controls While Reform is Underway Lessons Learned from Enforcement Recent Actions & Tips for the Unwary." During the webcast, he will address change in enforcement priorities, how to make a smooth transition during the ECR process and how recent enforcement actions will impact the supply chain.

On July 23, the third and final webcast of the series, "Practical Steps for Complying with U.S. Export Controls," Scarlott will provide information on determining which regulation applies to products, critical elements of an effective compliance program and determining when a license is needed and how to create one that is effective.

All three webcasts will take place from 1:00 pm—2:00 pm Central Time. The cost for a single webinar is \$50 for IPC members and \$75 for standard industry members. A package price (all three webinars)

for IPC members is \$120; standard industry price is \$195. For additional information or to register, visit www.ipc.org/itar-ear.

WAGO Wire, Vertical Jumpers for DIN-Rail Terminal Blocks

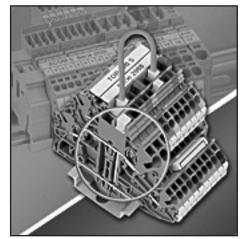
New jumpers provide horizontal and vertical potential commoning for WAGO Corporation's Double-Deck TOPJOB®S 2000 Series and X-COM®S MINI 2020 Series DIN-rail Terminal Blocks. Users can vertically common both levels of a double-deck terminal block or multiply potential over several adjacent DIN-rail terminal blocks. This can extend the functionality of select terminal blocks to help streamline BOMs, stock and designs.

The Vertical Jumper carries a 13.5 A/500 V rating. The Push-in Wire Jumpers feature a 9 A/800 V rating (AWG 18) and are offered in 60 mm, 110 mm and 250 mm lengths to meet varying requirements.

The new jumpers join the growing TOPJOB®S portfolio of commoning options, including:

- Adjacent Jumpers for continuous commoning of one potential in a single jumper slot.
- Push-in Jumper bars for standard connection of different DIN-rail terminal blocks.
- Staggered Jumpers for commoning different potentials in a single jumper slot.
- Step-down Jumpers for combining different cross sections.

Spanning from AWG 20–4, TOPJOB® S DIN-rail terminal blocks provide one of the industry's widest application ranges. The blocks support diverse industries/applications in process, building automation, traffic engineering and more.



Vertical Jumpers for DIN-Rail Terminal Blocks

X-COM®S fuses TOPJOB®S DIN-rail terminal blocks with touch-proof, pre-wired assemblies to streamline and eliminate wiring errors during panel- and machine-building. For additional information, visit www.wago.us. Contact WAGO at 1-800-DIN-RAIL or info.us@wago.com.





NEWS PLUGS continued



US Demand for Insulated Wire & Cable to Exceed \$29 Billion in 2017

US demand for insulated wire and cable is projected to increase 5.8 percent per year through 2017 to \$29.2 billion, recovering from declines during the 2007-2012 period. Building construction, particularly new housing, will drive demand for many types of wire and cable, including building, electronic, and power wire and cable products. In addition, upgrades to the aging US power transmission and distribution network will stimulate gains for power wire and cable and a turnaround in motor vehicle production will benefit advances for primary,

ignition, and battery wire and cable. These and other trends are presented in Insulated Wire & Cable, a new study from The Freedonia Group, Inc., a Cleveland-based industry market research firm.

Fiber optic cable is a vital component of the telecommunications market. After bottoming out in 2003, demand for fiber optic cable picked up at a rapid rate as telecommunications providers invested heavily in laying a fiber optic network to deliver data, television, and voice signals to consumers. The majority of this backbone infrastructure was installed during the past decade. As a result, although fiber optic cable demand will continue to record strong growth, demand increases will moderate through the forecast period. A large share of demand gains going forward will come from last-mile applications, which are still primarily comprised of copper coaxial cable.

Building wire and cable accounted for the largest share of product demand in 2012, as it is used in nearly all residential and non-residential structures. As a result, the recovering US construction industry will cause demand for building wire and cable to advance at the fastest rate.

Power wire & cable demand will also benefit from growth in construction expenditures.

Underground cable will experience the strongest segment gains, due to its aesthetic advantages over aerial cable. However, due to the higher costs of installing underground cable, it will experience only modest growth in replacement applications.

US INSULATED WIRE & CABLE DEMAND (million dollars)

Item	2007	2012	2017 2012	2007- 2017-	% Annual Growth 2012
Insulated Wire & Cable Demand	22570	22000	29200	-0.5	5.8
Building	5435	4130	6275	-5.3	8.7
Power	3685	3475	4600	-1.2	5.8
Electronic	3320	3385	4450	0.4	5.6
Fiber Optic	1795	2460	3100	6.5	4.7
Other	8335	8550	10775	0.5	4.7

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As the nation's infrastructure ages, necessary upgrades to the current power transmission and distribution network will boost aftermarket gains. Electronic wire and cable demand will be spurred by advances in the telecommunications market, as well as by a turnaround in electronic equipment shipments.

Insulated Wire & Cable (published 06/2013, 252 pages) is available for \$4900 from The Freedonia Group, Inc., 767 Beta Drive, Cleveland, OH 44143-2326. For further details, please contact Corinne Gangloff by phone 440.684.9600, fax 440.646.0484 or e-mail pr@freedoniagroup.com. Information may also be obtained through www.freedoniagroup.com.

New Self-Closing Nu-Guard Braided Sleeving

Waytek now offers Nu-Guard PET self-

closing braided sleeving to help save labor time and costs in the production of wire harnesses and in future maintenance projects in trucks, buses, off-road and industrial equipment.

Nu-Guard self-closing braided sleeving is light-weight and made of a black PET mono-filament and a textured multi-filament combination. It is knitted with a rugged, but smooth texture and appearance. The knitted construction provides good drainage, while maintaining superior abrasion resistance.

Nu-Guard is a cylindrical shape with an overlap self-closing sleeve. It allows you to wrap the sleeving around your wire harness, and is ideal for re-working components without disconnecting them. It ensures a protection of wires with a 90 degree minimum overlap.

Wrap Nu-Guard selfclosing sleeving directly around wires, cable assemblies and hoses to protect from cutting, abrasion and chafing. For more information on Nu-Guard or any other braided sleeving options Waytek carries, call 800.328.2724.

Waytek, Inc. carries more than 10,000 electrical supplies, including wire and cable, terminals and connectors, circuit protection parts, switches and more, for OEM and MRO mobile equipment markets.

Founded in 1970, the company has seen continued expansion in the electrical supplies industry. Waytek carries large quantities of stock items and is able to ship most stock items the same day, allow-

ing customers to carry smaller inventory, yet still have products when they need them.

Browse our electrical solutions at www.waytekwire.com, or call 800-328-2724.

Wire Stripper and Cutter Easily Handles 12 to 26 AWG stranded Wire

A combination wire cutter and stripper for stranded wire featuring a thumbadjustable dial cam for easily setting wire sizes from 12 to 26 AWG and storing the tool closed is being introduced by Xuron Corporation of Saco, Maine.

The Xuron Model 505ST Adjustable Stranded Wire Stripper-Cutter features a thumb-adjustable dial cam for changing wire sizes from 12 to 26 AWG (2.05 mm to 0.405 mm) that also acts as a closure, keeping the tool closed for storage.



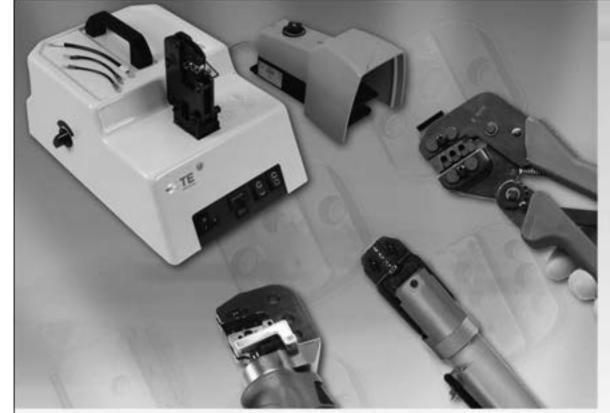
Xuron Model 505ST Adjustable Stranded Wire Stripper-Cutter

Designed for repeated cutting and stripping, this ergonomic hand tool has a Light-TouchTM return spring and non-slip $Xuro-Rubber^{TM}$ handle grips.

Made from alloyed steel, the Xuron Model 505ST Adjustable Stranded Wire Stripper-Cutter replaces the need for multiple tools and locks shut to easily fit into a tool kit or pocket. Ideally suited for assembly and field service use, this industrial-duty tool is comfortable to hold in small and large hands and is designed to provide optimum working leverage.

Xuron Model 505ST Adjustable Stranded Wire Stripper-Cutter is priced at \$17.85 (list).

For more information contact Xuron Corporation, 62 Industrial Park Rd,Saco, ME 04072-1840. Phone (207) 283-1401 or FAX (207) 283-0594 Visit www.xuron.com



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Whatever your production volume and job mix, we can offer the tools to get it done. With a full range of tooling from hand tools to high volume, fully automated systems, TE is able to meet manufacturing demands worldwide. Our experince has given us a unique view of the trends and challenges in wire harness and PCB manufacturing. It all derives from our commitment to your manufacturing challenges, giving you the advantage in your marketplace.

- Hand tools combine ease of use with reliability and precision.
- Applicators and tooling from TE can be your key to productive wire harness manufacturing. These
 applicators come from a long tradition of quality, reliability, and precision.
- Insertion Machine platforms combined with performance enhancing accessories provide flexibility to meet a wide range of customer requirements in the manufacturing of printed circuit boards.



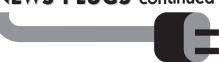
For all your application tooling needs, contact Heilind Electronics or visit www.heilind.com/rpages/gatd

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NEWS PLUGS continued



Get the NEW Cicoil Flat Cable & Assemblies Catalog!

Cicoil, a leading manufacturer of high Performance Flexx-Sil™ Flat Cables and Assemblies, is pleased to announce the release of its New Master Catalog. Available in print and web-ready downloadable format, the 52 page, full color catalog offers an extensive selection of 700+ standard part numbers, 27 New Products, custom capabilities, specification tables and technical field sales support tools.

Organized by product category, the innovative catalog features a one page outline for each product, including product features & benefits, specifications, applications, photos and ordering infor-

mation for each bulk cable and cable assembly design. Features include the following:

- Motion Control
 Cables: Motion Series,
 Motion Series Plus, Motor
 Power and Shielded Signal Cables
- Video & Data
 Cables: Cat 5e & Cat 6,
 Camera Link™, Controlled Impedance, USB 2.0 & 3.0, Flexible
 Coax and Fire Wire Cables
- Highly Flexible Unshielded Cables: Continuous Flex Control & Power, Hi-Temp IDC Ribbon, Hi-Temp Festoon, High Voltage Single Conductor and Thermocouple Cables



- Standard cable assemblies, complete with connectors, available for EVERY Cicoil flat cable (3, 6 and 12 foot lengths)
- Customizing Flat Cables and Assemblies with The Online Cable Configurator, Low Friction Options, StripMount™ Integrated Mounting Strip, SuperTuff™ Jack-

eting, Tubing and FlexRail™ Trackless Self-Supporting Cable System.

• Complete technical information, including our "Patented Extrusion Process", "Comparisons to other Technologies" and "Top 10 Reason Why to Use Cicoil Flat cables"

Howard Lind, Cicoil's President & CEO,

stated that "the New Catalog represents many months of work by our design, engineering and marketing team. It is targeted at engineers, designers and customers for flexible flat cable, with the goal to give users detailed, beneficial information and tools that they can use to understand and specify our products. The New Catalog has a tremendous amount of technical information, along with pictures and assembly illustrations, to aid in the specification process. And standard bulk cables are listed, along with cable assemblies with standard connectors to make it a fast and simple process for people that want to order in bulk, value added, or as complete assemblies."

Cicoil has been a leader in designing and manufacturing high performance cable assemblies for over fifty years.

The company's Patented Flexx-Sil™ Flat Cable Technology provides high flexibility, extremely long life, and they can withstand temperature extremes from -65 degrees to +260 degrees Celsius.

Cicoil's flat cables are used in thousands of demanding applications; including aircraft fuel control cells, semiconductor automation, and the Space Shuttle. Cicoil designs and manufactures its Flexx-SilTM jacketed cables and cable assemblies in an automated facility in Valencia, California. Cicoil's quality assurance system is certified to the ISO 9001 (AS9100) standard.

Visit www.cicoil.com for more information, or call 661-295-1295 to speak to an application engineer.



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Thermosleeve USA products are also certified under the following agencies, U/L, TUV, VDE, C-UL, F-Mark and are registered "Green Partners" with Sony and Samsung Electronics.

If you're manufacturing wire harnesses, rest assured Thermosleeve USA probably offers a tubing to meet your requirements.

To view our complete line of products you can either scan the QR code or visit us at www.thermosleeve-usa.com/catalog. To request a quote, contact us at sales@thermosleeve-usa.com or

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Altex Continued from

the firm in 1990 after working in 1984-90 for Borns Management Corp., an Indianapolis real-estate management company. In 1979-84 he was at Price Waterhouse Coopers, the international corporation that provides such services as

accounting, consulting and financial and tax advising.

Bromm, who joined Altex in 1986, became a minority company owner in 1995. He has been business development VP for 10 years. In May he was elected to a two-year term on the Wiring Harness Manufacturers Association Board of Directors.

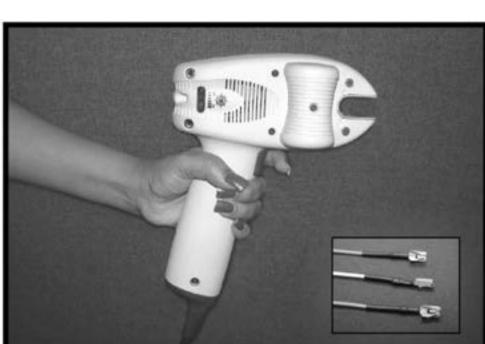
According to Bromm, he and Weidberg have steered Altex toward in-depth relationships with its customers. "We integrate with each customer, so Altex is really an extension of their production floor," Bromm said. "We don't want to be a contract manufacturer alone. We want to bring more value in the ways we deploy our resources.

"We are focused on what our customers' needs and strategies are," Bromm said. "We have a customer-centered culture, and everything works backwards from the customer. We want to provide

support and the best possible cost of product ownership in the most costeffective way through such things as engineering, resources, turns and carrying costs. We need to understand how we fit into their manufacturing strategies."

Future customers are targeted by their interest in outsourcing their harnesses, cables and electromechanical assemblies (EMAs) because, as Bromm pointed out, many times they are not "their core competency. With the healthcare situation and cost, head count is paramount. Companies are asking themselves if they really want to staff for wiring harnesses."





5 seconds vs. 12 seconds*

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Focus-Lite " technology uses radiant energy to shrink heat-shrink tubing in a fraction of the time of traditional methods.

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The Focus-Lite** is equipped with an adjustable timer for repeatable shrinking, time after time. It also has a dimmer switch that controls the power for sensitive components. Visit our website at www.judco.net and see our full line of Focus-Lite™ products.

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Team collaboration is an integral part of the company's lean philosophy.



Team members are cross-trained in a number of disciplines to maximize flexibility on the production floor.

At 59 percent, harnesses are the biggest production segment at Altex, followed by cables at 21 percent and EMAs at 20 percent. The breakdowns have remained steady the last several years, but cables and EMAs are trending up, Bromm stated. Most run sizes are between 1,000 and 10,000 but can be as few as five a year or as many as 50,000 a week.

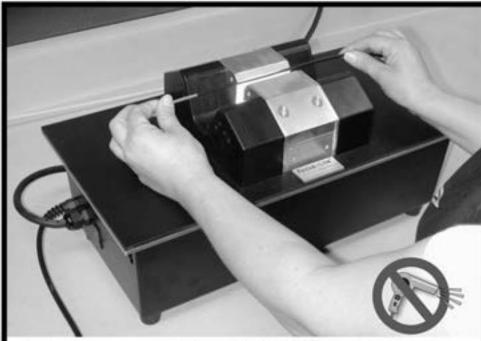
The simplest product is a stripped and crimped wire costing 15 cents. A harness of 18-gauge wire and 75 breakouts may cost up to \$3,000. Other harnesses may be 170 feet long with 15 breakouts of four-gauge wire.

Cable assemblies between one foot and 50 feet long may have 2-4 conductors. EMAs, including DIN rail assemblies

and box builds, may be as big as 3x4 feet, with 1x1 and 2x4 feet most common, and cost \$10-500.

The products are used by the following markets: industrial, 26 percent; transportation (including automotive), 20; HVAC, 19; power generation, 18; security, 14; and agriculture, 3. Applications include power generation, furnace and air-conditioner controls, car seatbelt systems, heated grips on motorcycles, power generation for offshore oil and gas mining, elevators, SUV runningboard lights, boat dashboard systems, railway safety crossings and electrical hybrid systems.

Continued on page 52



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Altex

Continued from page 51

Altex has more than 100 customers, ranging from Fortune 50 corporations to small firms. The customers are all over the United States and into Mexico, but most are in the Midwest and South. Many customers have been with Altex more than 10 years.

The customer number has remained steady. An increase would be based on "how a customer fits into our strategy," Bromm said. "We look at the manufacturing strategies of a customer and whether we can have a long-term relationship and a good fit. Our value to a customer can be on a much broader spectrum than unit cost."

Efforts are being made to boost sales in such industries as transportation, agri-

culture, security and military. "We have stayed away from solar and wind because we're not yet sure how they will do. We are taking a wait-and-see approach," Bromm said.

Most leads for new business come from networking and a marketing program. Altex is represented by R.O. Whitesell & Associates headquartered in Carmel, Ind. The manufacturers rep firm has 33 sales engineers specializing in the electronics industry.

Marketing efforts are focused on creating an inbound marketing program. The Altex Web site and other tools, such as LinkedIn, help produce inbound leads. Industry trade shows also are attended to network with potential



Lee Payton, process engineering, analyzes a current build for process improvements.

customers.

"We use some e-mail, but it is very focused so we create inbound traffic," Bromm said. "Overall, we want to put our messaging in all the right places, and then when companies need us they will

contact us." Assistance with marketing is provided by WhiteHot Marketing of Carmel, Indiana.

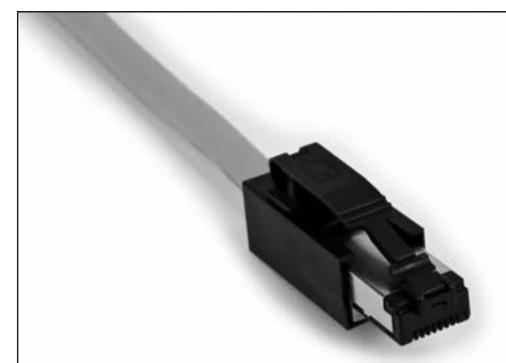
Once Altex is contacted, more than one person responds, since "by philosophy, our entire company is in customer service," Bromm said. "We want to be an extension of a customer's manufacturing floor, so we go out in teams to customers with our people from such areas as engineering, operations and quality."

Besides Weidberg and Bromm, the key managers in Indiana are Chris Gates, director of engineering and manufacturing; Lisa Thornberry, customer service manager; Tom James, materials manager; and Susan Watson, controller. The Mexico operation is managed by Pat Serrano, who oversees quality, and Alfonso Soriano, process engineering.

Of 57 total staff members, 30 are in Indiana and 27 in Mexico. Before 2009 the total number was 30 percent higher. The recession took its toll, but "when we analyzed our operations and made adjustments, our productivity went up substantially," Bromm said, noting that employee turnover is rare.

Production is split 60-40 between Indiana and Mexico. Both facilities have the same capabilities, and customers' products are manufactured in both places. Bromm related that total cost is considered in determining what to produce where. Factors include customer preference, labor content, volume, raw material availability and transportation costs.

Altex was founded in



3M™ INDUSTRIAL RJ45 MODULAR PLUG, 3R108 SERIES

The 3M Industrial RJ45 Modular Plug is based on the standard RJ45 pin profile and was developed specifically for use in rugged industrial IP 20 environments using double-shielded, four twisted pair enhanced category 5 (Cat5e) cabling. 3M's 50-year, award-winning, insulation displacement contact (IDC) technology incorporated into the RJ45 modular plug allows a reliable and easy termination process without the need to strip the wires. This RJ45 modular plug can be terminated in the field using only a pair of pliers.

The 3M Industrial RJ45 Modular Plug is designed to be used mainly in industrial atmospheres as an interface for industrial ethernet. More and more industrial machines are connected and controlled using ethernet technology to optimize factory and process automation.



3M



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In 1998 the Mexico operation was begun in Nogales in a 10,000-square-foot building. Two years ago the business was relocated to another 10,000-square-foot building in Nogales that provided advantages over the original location. The structure could be doubled in size, if necessary.

The buildings contain equipment from such companies as Komax, Schleuniger, TE, Artos, Ideal, Stormtronics, Ideal Precision, Pneumatech, Kaeser, Cirris, Mitutoyo and Fluke. Both facilities are ISO 9001:2008 certified, and assemblies are built to meet IPC-WHMA

Jeff Schelling, lead equipment technician, vali- depends on the capabilidates the setup for a new process.

A-620 standards.

Quality is measured by the number of mistakes reported by customers. As of June 12, only six minor ones occurred in 2013. "We react to what they are, look for any trends and take internal corrective actions," Bromm said. "We review all metrics in leadership meetings."

Lead times to launch projects are between three weeks and six months, depending on numerous variables such as design and materials availability. Shipping dates are met 99 percent of the time.

Altex has 100-plus suppliers, and approximately 20 percent of them receive 80 percent of company orders. "We want to be strategically important to our suppliers to give us the best possible advantage," Bromm said. "It can be costly to change or consolidate suppliers because there can be unique characteristics and requirements of customers and products. Suppliers have gotten bet-

> ter since the recession. It changed people and their

Significant change will occur at Altex over the next 12 months because Bromm and Weidberg want to acquire another company. They are looking for one that fits well into their long-range strategies.

"It is not a prerequisite that the location be close by," Bromm said. "Actually, another part of the United States might be better. It all ties of the site to service

OEMs and maintain that comfort level of being an extension of the manufacturing

Such an acquisition would boost Weidberg and Bromm's five-year goal of Altex exceeding \$20 million in sales. Regardless of company size, "we want to be relevant in the industry," Bromm said. "We want to be the best in process and execution and delivering what is promised to the customer.

"We also have a vision of a place where people want to come to work

and get a lot of satisfaction out of it by creating opportunities for them financially, personally and professionally," Bromm said. "My advice to anyone in the industry is to have a vision and commit to it. You also have to be proactive and do what you are good at."

For more information about Altex, call 317-804-3800, e-mail rbromm@altexengineered.com, visit www.altexwireandcable.com or write 17201 Westfield Park Rd., Westfield, IN 46074.

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NEWS PLUGS continued



Introbotix launches ACCU-Prober™ for SET2SEIL

The ACCU-Prober™ Open Platform expands with the latest Intel® created high frequency testing method for manufacturers and designers.

Introbotix announces the launch of ACCU-Prober™ for SET2SEIL as a new configuration to the successful ACCU-Prober™ Open Platform. SET2SEIL is an Intel® created testing method for measuring Single-Ended Interconnect Loss in the

quality control of printed wiring board manufacturing. ACCU-ProberTM for SET2SEIL is available, as a new configuration, as well as an upgrade for existing ACCU-ProberTM for SET2DIL systems.

"We are excited to be adding SET2SEIL capabilities to the ACCU-Prober™ Open Platform. When we released the ACCU-Prober™ as an open ended platform, we wanted to ensure it could grow with the industry as new methodologies are developed. With the addition of SET2SEIL, we are able to give manufacturers and designers the ability to perform a variety of high-frequency testing in house," says Brian Butler, President of Introbotix.

As printed circuit board frequencies

have increased, measuring attenuation or signal loss, has become an essential metric of product development, as well as manufacturing quality control. The ACCU-ProberTM Open Platform has become a trusted tool for engineers and leading wiring board manufacturers in China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Germany, and in the United States.

"The ACCU-Prober™ is a system that can be deployed in many configurations. Manufacturing facilities can standardize on a single device with a consistent interface and footprint to measure impedance, prop delay, SET2DIL, SET2SEIL, EBW, SPP, and future standards currently in development," says Brian Butler. "Existing ACCU-Prober™ systems are easily upgradable to SET2SEIL, which gives manufacturers and designers the opportunity to meet the needs of today and tomorrow."

The ACCU-ProberTM for SET2SEIL is available as an add-on to any ACCU-ProberTM configuration:

- ACCU-Prober™ Standard measures impedance, propagation delay and velocity, as well as equivalent bandwidth loss (EBW).
- ACCU-Prober™ for SPP Fully licensed by IBM to measure Short Pulse Propagation (SPP), and capabilities of ACCU-Prober™ for SET2DIL and ACCU-Prober™ Standard.
- ACCU-Prober™ for SET2DIL Includes compliance with Intel-created SET2DIL (Sdd21 Differential Insertion Loss), and capabilities of ACCU-Prober™ Standard.

All configurations of ACCU-Prober TM are available today, details are available at introbotix.com.

Introbotix is an award winning pioneer and industry leader in High Frequency Testing—providing testing services for circuit board development and now delivering solutions for manufacturing with the ACCU-ProberTM Open Platform.

For further information contact Introbotix, 4208 Balloon Park Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109. Phone (505-345-7785 or International 00-1-505-345-7785. Visit www.introbotix.com.

PCB Book-To-Bill Rario Reaches 34-Month High

IPC — Association Connecting Electronics Industries® announced the April findings from its monthly North American Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Statistical Program. Notable among the month's findings is the PCB book-to-bill ratio, which reached 1.10, its highest level since July 2010.

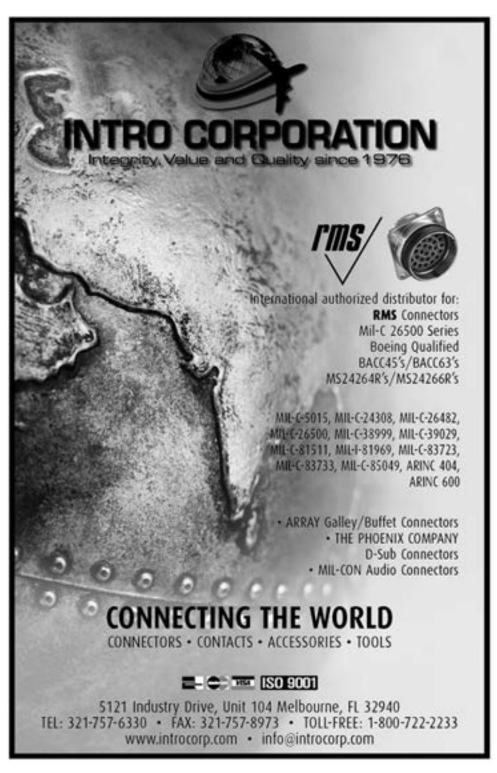
PCB Bookings Gain Strength

Total North American PCB shipments were down 7.0 percent in April 2013 from April 2012, but bookings increased 7.2 percent year over year. Year to date, PCB industry shipments were down 5.1 percent and bookings were down 2.3 percent. Compared to the previous month, PCB shipments in April decreased 9.9 percent, and bookings declined 14.3 percent. Bookings have outpaced shipments for the past five months.

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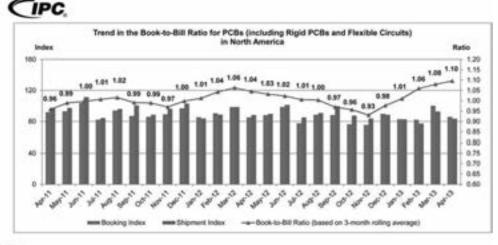




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iculated by multiplying the index number from last month by the month-to-month growth rates reported by the current sample of options. The baselines, set at 100, are based on the average monthly data for the year 2010. paloutated valing actual volume data and not the index numbers. Because bookings and shipments have different baselines. We the ratios accurately.

"North American PCB sales in April continued to lag behind 2012 levels, although sales in the flexible circuit segment are strengthening," said Sharon Starr, IPC director of market research. "Rigid PCB orders for the month exceeded last year's orders and continued to push the bookto-bill ratio up to a strong 1.10. This is the fifth consecutive monthly increase in the ratio, which reinforces our hope that PCB sales will strengthen during the coming months."

The book-to-bill ratios are calculated by dividing the value of orders booked over the past three months by the value of sales billed during the same period from companies in IPC's survey sample. A ratio of more than 1.00 suggests that current demand is ahead of supply, which is a positive indicator for sales growth over the next three to six months.

<u>Domestic Production Holds Steady</u>

IPC's monthly survey of the North American PCB industry tracks bookings and shipments from U.S. and Canadian facilities, which provide indicators of regional demand. These numbers do not measure U.S. and Canadian PCB production. To track regional production trends, IPC asks survey participants for the percent of their reported shipments that were produced domestically (i.e., in the USA or Canada). In April 2013, 85 percent of total PCB shipments reported by survey participants were domestically produced. These numbers are significantly affected by the mix of companies in IPC's survey sample, which change slightly in January, but are kept constant through the remainder of the year.

Continued on page 57

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NEWS PLUGS continued



Continued grom page 55 ___

Interpreting the Data

Year-on-year and year-to-date growth rates provide the most meaningful view of industry growth. Month-to-month comparisons should be made with caution as they may reflect cyclical effects and short-term volatility. Because bookings tend to be more volatile than shipments, changes in the book-to-bill ratios from month to month may not be significant unless a trend of more than three consecutive months is apparent. It is also important to consider changes in bookings and shipments to understand what is driving changes in the book-to-bill ratio.

The information in IPC's monthly PCB industry statistics is based on data provided by a representative sample of both rigid PCB and flexible circuit manufacturers selling in the USA and Canada. IPC publishes the PCB book-to-bill ratio near the end of each month. Statistics for the current month are not available until the last week of the following month.

Detailed Data Available

More detailed monthly findings on rigid PCB and flexible circuit sales and orders, including separate rigid and flex book-to-bill ratios, military and medical market growth, demand for prototypes, total market size and forecasts, are published monthly in IPC's North American PCB Market Report. This report is available free to current participants in IPC's PCB Statistical Program and by subscription to others.

More information about this report can be found at www.ipc.org/market-research-subscriptions.

Stewart Connector's New RJ45 Plugs for Large Diameter CAT6a Horizontal Cables

Stewart Connector, a division of Bel Fuse Inc., announced the release of large diameter Category 6a 8P8C modular plug (SS-39200-027) The new RJ45 plugs are the latest addition to Stewart Connector's extensive portfolio of connectors designed to support Gigabit Ethernet (1000Base-T) and 10 Gigabit Ethernet (10GBase-T) transfer rates, along with PoE (Power over Ethernet). They notably accept a cable diameter range of AWG23 to AWG24 and accommodate conductor sizes up to 0.048" in diameter. The UL Listed, RoHS-compliant connectors are specifically offered to support terminations requiring horizontal cabling, which extends from the telecommunications outlet in the work area to the horizontal cross-connect in the telecommunications room. Horizontal cabling is often specified in direct connect or consolidation point applications where link lengths exceed 10 meters (33 feet). Since the cabling used in these systems is typically made of AWG23 or AWG24 solid conductor copper and is larger than traditional patch cable, standard modular plugs cannot be used. Due to Stewart's proprietary contact design and unique conductor load bar, the SS-39200-027 large diameter plug is able to terminate the large diameter horizontal cabling in the same form factor as traditional RJ45 modular plugs.

Stewart Connector's low-profile, large diameter, modular plugs are well suited for high-density switches and routers, and can be used in both shielded and unshielded applications. They feature a snag-less strain relief boot to prevent plug tab damage during installation and a wire aligner to ensure precise conductor placement during assembly. Moreover, the CAT6a connectors boast 360-degrees of shielding to protect signals from external noise.

Plug, load bar and wire aligner are manufactured of UL94-V0 polycarbonate and feature 50 microinches gold-plated contacts for robust, long-lasting connections.

Additional specifications include an operating temperature range of -40 degrees C to +85 degrees C, and durability of 750 matching cycles. Voltage rating is 150 VAC, and current rating is 1.5 A @ 25 degrees C. Parts are field installable with standard Stewart Connector's termination tooling. Plug kits are offered individually bagged in packaging suited for field installation as well as bulk packaged for factory terminations. For detailed information on Stewart Connector's complete modular plug offering, visit http://belfuse.com/ethernet/modular-plugs/



RJ45 Plugs for Large Diameter CAT6a Horizontal Cables

Average pricing for Stewart Connector's large diameter RJ45 CAT6a (SS-39200-027) plugs is \$1.93 each in quantities of 500. Delivery is from stock. Samples are available.

Bel (www.belfuse.com) and its divisions are primarily engaged in the design, manufacture, and sale of products used in networking, telecommunications, highspeed data transmission, commercial aerospace, military, transportation, and consumer electronics. Products include magnetics (discrete components, power transformers and MagJack® connectors with integrated magnetics), modules (DC-DC converters and AC-DC power supplies, integrated analog front-end modules and custom designs), circuit protection (miniature, micro and surface mount fuses) and interconnect devices (micro, circular and filtered D-Sub connectors, fiber optic connectors, passive jacks, plugs and high-speed cable assemblies). The Company operates facilities around the world.

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NEWS PLUGS continued



MegaStrip 9650 Programmable **Cut and Strip Machine**

MegaStrip 9650: In a class of its own

The MegaStrip 9650 introduces new technologies to the market at a favorable price. With its modular system architecture, modern technology and easy operation, the new MegaStrip 9650 is in a class of its own!

The MegaStrip 9650 sets new standards for programmable cut and strip machines for processing stranded wires, multi-conductor cables and shielded cables up to 35 mm (1.38") in diameter.

The machine can be configured to handle anything from simple stripping to multi-stage operations. Schleuniger's tested and qualified RX technology is available for concentric, rotary shield cutting.

> A wide range of options such as high-precision axial slitting, inner-conductor processing and special blades deliver professional results and allow multiple steps to be included in a single pass, resulting in reliable quality and shorter processing times.

> The clearly arranged 10" color touchscreen features self-explanatory icons and intuitive navigation, offering a fast track to professional, error-free programming.

> Libraries for raw materials, processing methods and predefined cable ends help to reduce secondary processing times and therefore minimize downtime.

> Quick-change blade cartridges and cable guides are additional user-friendly features. Up to two independent inkjet printers for cable marking can be positioned downstream of the cutting head in order to eliminate any cable waste and the associated high costs.

> Of course, even the standard version of the MegaStrip 9650 has a wide range of interfaces for the extensive range of peripheral devices.

- user-friendly
- reliable
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More information about this new product can be found at www.schleunigerna.com. Should you have any questions, please email sales@schleuniger.com or call (603) 668-8117.

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