

# SPEEDBOARD NEWSLETTER

January 2015

For the latest Speedboard news and current developments

## Ready to tackle increasingly demanding PCB assembly projects

We are pleased to announce we have enhanced our PCB assembly capabilities, following our investment in an IBL BLC 509 Vapour Phase oven. High complexity, and by extension high value, boards demand the use of alternative production techniques in order to maintain consistently high quality. Vapour Phase, compared to traditional reflow soldering, affords much better control and stability over the entire soldering process regardless of board characteristics.

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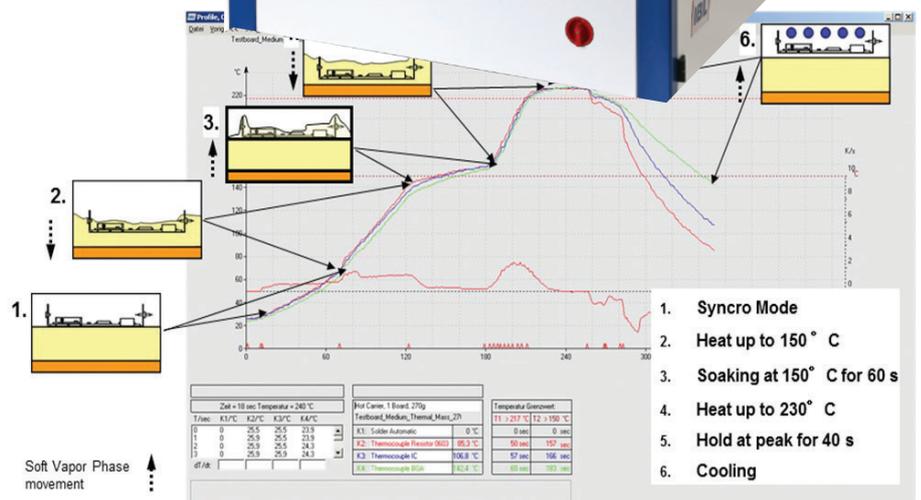
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### Key features and benefits

- The Vapour Phase process works by heating the PCB in the vapour of boiling Galden.
- The temperature of the PCB is simply controlled by changing the PCB's position within the vapour (e.g. height above the boiling Galden).
- PCBs cannot become hotter than the vapour in which they are suspended, so do not experience the high temperature differences ('delta Ts') typically produced during traditional reflow soldering.

- The risk of component and/or board damage due to overheating is eliminated.
- Galden, is an inert liquid which is ideal for the wetting of lead-free alloys without risk of oxidation.
- A Vapour Phase oven requires far less electrical power than a traditional reflow oven, so is a cost-effective solution for small batch PCBs.
- Galden is an environmentally-friendly liquid plus the IBL oven has airlocks to minimise evaporation (to atmosphere) and the volume of liquid lost during board transfer.

## Nick Fairhead appointed as new Sales and Marketing Director...

Nick joined us in the summer and has quickly settled into his role and the Speedboard team. His appointment will complement Neil and Richard (the other Directors) and ensure Speedboard's customers continue to be supported with an "Account Director" as the company grows. Nick has a wealth of relevant experience having previously worked for two of Speedboard's competitors, both times in the capacity of Sales Director. Nick's commercial experience is underpinned with a strong technical background, having started his

career as an apprentice with Marconi Avionics and then working as Senior Test Engineer with Cambridge Instruments before running the System Test operation within Alstom Signalling. Nick is married with two sons and his hobbies include Dinghy Sailing, having built a small boat (see photo on right) in his garage. Nick is also a qualified pilot and in the summer months enjoys flying a 1947 Tiger Moth (RAF trainer) from Sibson near Peterborough.



## New Improved capabilities

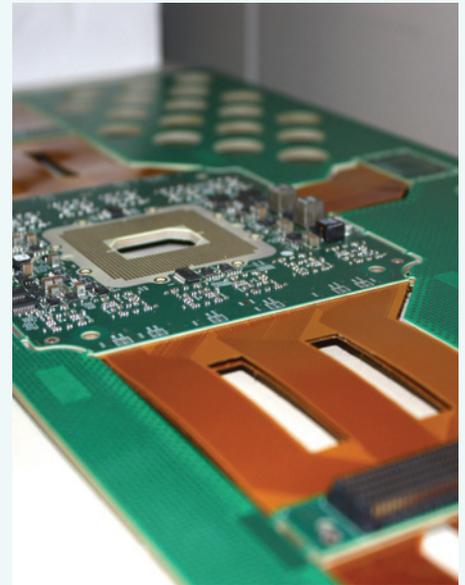
In addition to our investment in Vapour Phase, we have been busy over the summer months upgrading our SMD assembly and inspection capabilities, to ensure we can always meet our customers' requirements; current and future.

Since July we have installed: a 2nd X-ray system (which gives us full 5D-axis inspection capability); two newer Siemens SiPlace F4s and two S25s (giving us full 0201 placement capability). We have also upgraded all the SiPlace PCs, network cables and upgraded the touch screens to make life easier for the SMT operators, as well as improving the working environment.

To the right is an example of one of the more complex Flexi rigid boards we are now manufacturing with our new equipment. This is

an extremely challenging board to manufacture because it not only requires 1,300 SMD placements (of a wide variety of component types) but there are also large thermal mass variations between the rigid areas and the flexi limbs. Even as the bare board, it pushes production limits; with 75µ track / 85µm gap over nearly all of its area; approximately 10,000 microvias and 8,000 conventional vias; and 22 layers giving a total thickness of 2.5mm.

Testament to the placement accuracy of the new S25s and the controllable reflow process of Vapour Phase oven, the first prototype build went extremely well. Good news for full production runs as this is a very expensive board, and there is no room for error.



## New Starters:

The summer has also seen a lot of activity in terms of recruitment and, in addition to Nick joining, we have made two other new appointments across the company.

David Rushmere joins us as an SMT Operator. David has a significant amount of relevant experience, having spent 15 years working in this role within the CEM industry before joining us. When not at work, David enjoys playing badminton and supports Chelsea; which should lead to some interesting discussions in the canteen.



Paul Lockyer joins us as a Senior Inspector. Paul who is IPC-certified has a significant amount of experience working in electronics, having served nine years with the RAF and 21 years with Northrup Grumman.



# 10 Fun Facts about Speedboard. Did you know...?

Gwynne Jones, our Delivery Driver, was the Sous Chef to the Royal Family for over 25 years before joining Speedboard. Gwynne, whose HQ was at Buckingham Palace, travelled

extensively with the Royal Family, including cooking on the Royal Yacht Britannia, and was awarded a Royal Victorian Medal among others.



## Did you know...?

Karen Heath, our Commercial Manager and daughter to Gwynne, grew up in a cottage within the grounds of Windsor Castle and often played with the Royal Family when they were young.

## Did you know...?

Speedboard is such a friendly working environment that 5 of our employees have a 2nd member of their family working in the company.

## Did you know...?

Jo Seymour, one of our Account Managers, is an avid festival goer and last year spent several weekends with her family under canvas listening to music at Weyfest, Beautiful Days, Watchett and Party in a Field festivals.

## Did you know...?

Speedboard couldn't be a more appropriate name as one of the boards we manufactured broke the land speed record installed on Thrust2 the famous British-designed and -built jet propelled car.

## Did you know...?

Paul Barlow, Test Department Supervisor, used to work in a Paint Ball Centre before qualifying from University with an Electronics degree and is a certified "Master Paint Baller".

## Did you know...?

Neil Owen and Richard Watson, Speedboard's owners were both former customers of Speedboard prior to acquiring the company... in the famous words of Victor Kiam "I liked it so much I bought the company".

## Did you know...?

For one of our customers we have produced over 3.5 million PCBAs for Smoke Detectors that have been installed globally in prestigious hotels and also on-board the Queen Elizabeth cruise ship.

## Did you know...?

Our longest serving member of staff is Jaswin Der Sandhu who has been with us for over 26 years.

## Did you know...?

Our factory was once used to produce the Lego models for Legoland Windsor and California. Indeed, we still find the occasional Lego block - tucked away in a corner or behind a radiator.

# Results year ending June 2014 show steady growth.

We are pleased to confirm that we completed another successful year in June with turnover growing to just over £7.5million. The company would like to thank all staff for their continued hard work and efforts in achieving this...plus of course many thanks to our customers for their well-placed confidence in Speedboard. Based on sales (year-to-date) and our forecast over the coming months this trend looks set to continue.

# Speedboard Assembly Services' management team take part in a Dragon Boat Challenge.....

There is no doubt about it, operating a successful Contract Electronics Manufacturing company in today's market is no easy task.

The management team realises that key to this is the ability to work effectively as a team; a

bit of a hackneyed expression but true none the less.

To help develop this culture, the management team frequently participate in team building events, most recently taking part in a Corporate Dragon Boat Challenge held at the London

2012 Olympic rowing and canoeing venue. Speedboard (Gold sponsors of the event) battled it out against a number of other teams over the 200m race course on the Olympic lake on Wednesday 2nd July 2014..... finishing a very respectable 5th place.



## Staff Summer Party

Staff enjoyed a fun-filled evening in July with some great food and after-dinner entertainment, with casino tables and an 8-lane Scalextric race track. The race, organised in heats, became more competitive as the evening went on and in the end was won by Geoff Bowling (Well done, Geoff) whilst others enjoyed the thrills of the Black Jack and Roulette tables - courtesy of the company... with toy money of course.



## Go Sober in October

Richard Streetley, one of our Production Engineers raised an incredible £712 for Macmillan Cancer support by participating in "Go Sober in October". This is an extremely worthy cause and a big thank you from Richard to everyone who sponsored him.



## Christmas Pizza Party

As is tradition at Speedboard, on the last working day of the year we all enjoy pizzas in an informal and friendly atmosphere. Neil always enters into the spirit and in true Christmas style makes his entrance dressed as Widow Twankey.

