



SMART Group Chairman Paul Salmon and Justin Tadman, Managing Director of B2B Division, Reed Exhibitions

Important News from SMART Group

SMART Power Drives Nepcon

Reed Exhibitions and SMART Group announce partnership to jointly manage Nepcon UK.

Reed Exhibitions and SMART Group have signed a joint ownership agreement for Nepcon. This winning partnership is unique in the industry, combining Reed Exhibitions' event expertise and SMART Group's industry authority.

It reaffirms Nepcon's position as THE national event for the UK electronics industry.

SMART Group Chairman Paul Salmon said "We are really excited to be jointly managing

Nepcon. The SMART group believe that a single, strong, developing trade show that meets the needs of our changing industry is vital and that together we are the perfect people to deliver it.

The entire Board of Directors are delighted by the co-ownership of the show, which will enable us to reinvest in the industry through our expanded technology transfer programmes."

Exhibition Director Liz Finlay commented "Joining forces with SMART Group will bring a wealth of industry knowledge and a better

understanding of business challenges to the organising table. Nepcon has consistently delivered thousands of visitors. This development will guarantee that it will be a "must attend" event for many more."

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, Nepcon will take place 29th April - 1st May 2008 at the Birmingham NEC in Hall 20.

For more information and to book your stand go to www.nepcon.co.uk or call the Nepcon team on +44 (0)20 8910 7979.

Welcome to an important newsletter

We are pleased to announce our partnership with Reed Exhibitions to jointly manage the UK's leading UK electronics show Nepcon. There is now a joint ownership between Reeds and SMART Group to manage this important exhibition. More details are in this newsletter, including a Q & A with our Vice President Peter Swanson. As a long time participant of Nepcon, I, along with my fellow committee

members was delighted to hear this news. We look forward to welcoming all members to the NEC in Birmingham from the 29th April - 1st May 2008. We hope you will participate in the many new events being planned at the show.

This has been an exciting and busy time for the SMART Group, we have successfully held our first events in South Africa, Keith Bryant

and his fellow presenters, along with the committee in SA are to be congratulated. A further tour takes place next year.

Finally we hope to see you at our upcoming events, including the workshop and factory tour of Dolby Laboratories in early December.

Best Regards
Mike Judd

SMART Power Drives Nepcon

AN INTERVIEW WITH PETER SWANSON, VICE PRESIDENT OF SMART GROUP



Reed Exhibitions and SMART Group have signed a joint ownership agreement for Nepcon. What does this mean?

Nepcon UK is now co-owned by Reed Exhibitions and SMART Group, and will be co-branded – “Nepcon powered by SMART”. Our share is significant, and takes our relationship with the show well beyond the sponsorship arrangement which we have enjoyed for many years.

How will it work?

Strategic direction for Nepcon will be decided by a management board with two members each from Reed Exhibitions and SMART Group.

As one of those board members, I will be representing SMART with the experience of over a decade as a member of SMART Steering Committee and former chairman of four and a half years. I will also bring the commercial experience of managing my own business for over 25 years, and crucially, being a Nepcon exhibitor for just as long.

Behind us will be a special Nepcon-focussed SMART committee, brimming with all the technical expertise and industry background for which we are

already well known. It will include both attendee and exhibitor perspectives. They will consult with the hundreds of SMART member companies, who represent the full gamut of stakeholders in electronics manufacturing – from all those engineers and technicians on the factory shop floor, to bare board fabricators, component suppliers, material and equipment vendors, designers, academia and consulting bodies.

Nepcon is their event. Our implicit, absolute understanding of their needs will be fed right into the strategic show plan.

Then it's in the industry's interest for Nepcon to be a success?

Absolutely. SMART Group believe that a single, strong, developing trade show that

meets the requirements of our changing industry is vital, and that together with Reed Exhibitions, we are the perfect people to deliver it.

So what difference will this partnership make to the show?

Nepcon has a 40 year history of delivering business opportunities to exhibitors and attendees of the show in the UK, throughout the ups and downs of our industry cycles. Our responsibility will be to help take Nepcon beyond a “trade show”. Obviously, we will continue with the technology programs and features which previously have been an integral successful part of the exhibition, but we plan to take these to exciting new levels.

In addition to seeing new products, we know that attendees will appreciate more opportunities for learning, development and career enhancement. In an internet age, Nepcon will provide a single, common focus point for face-to-face meetings and networking in the UK.

It has only been a few days since the agreement was made, and we are in the furious planning stage right now, but expect some more detailed announcements soon.

What are the financial implications to SMART Group?

Very positive! We are, and have always

been, a not-for-profit organisation, run by volunteers and with only one salaried employee, our secretary. With the exception of a few special projects where considerable professional resource is expended by SMART members (the successful LEADOUT dissemination program springs to mind), no-one gets paid – and that will not change.

However, co-ownership of the show will enable us to reinvest in the industry through expanded technology transfer programmes. In addition, we will work on plans to offer more widespread industry training at the grassroots, and encourage the new generations to join our industry

for the future. We will be working in and encouraging vital standards activities. SMART will continue to bring together the technical interests of our sometimes disparate disciplines – for example, the stronger the understanding between our designers and our manufacturing engineers, the more competitive we will be. Again, we will be instrumental in helping our industry colleagues face the challenges presented by both legislation changes, and new technologies like RFID.

There is real synergy here – further Nepcon success feeds right back to the industry through SMART.



NEC2008
29TH APRIL – 1ST MAY 2008 • NEC www.nepcon.co.uk
THE UK EVENT FOR THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

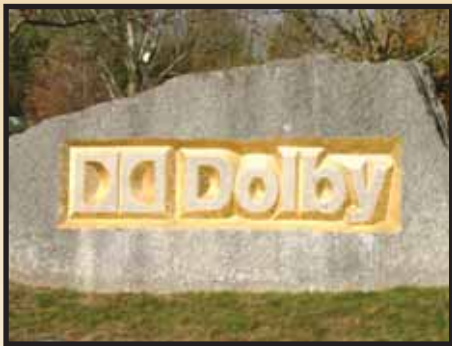
Powered By



NEPCON UK

Nepcon is the complete production line event for the UK electronics industry. Directors, managers and engineers from across the supply chain attend to source, compare and purchase production materials, equipment, ancillaries and other related services. Now entering its 40th year Nepcon continues to evolve with the industry helping UK manufacturers rise to the challenges of high technology and low volume manufacturing and the task of remaining competitive in a global market. Ideally situated at the National Exhibition Centre in the heart of the UK, Nepcon is the largest annual event for electronics production professionals providing an unmissable business, networking and educational opportunity.





BOOK NOW!

A Visit to Dolby Laboratories for SMART Group Members

We are delighted to invite members to a Lead-Free Wave & Selective Soldering Workshop, including a Tour of the Lead-Free Manufacturing Facility, at Dolby Laboratories Inc, European HQ, Wootton Bassett; December 5th 2008.

Nigel Burtt, Production Engineering Manager and SMART Group Technical Committee Member; who is hosting this event, is no stranger to members. His frequent updates of WEEE & RoHS issues on *smart-e-link* have been very helpful.

The presentations will include wave and selective soldering, lead-free solder pot contamination, Nigel's 'Chamber of Horrors', PCB ENIG vs Immersion Ag Finish and Outgassing.

To book your place please contact Tony Gordon on 01494 465217

More on: www.smartgroup.org/pdf/wave2007.pdf

As a taster for this event Nigel Burtt writes:

FAIL TO PREPARE = PREPARE TO FAIL

For our main product, the CP650, an audio processor for replay of 35mm film soundtracks and control of cinema projectors, we had fully converted this design to be RoHS compliant in advance of the deadline here in the UK factory. There were a few parts that were giving us nightmares as the deadline loomed but it all came together and the first units shipped to customers in early June 2006. As part of our corporate plan for RoHS, we decided that the US factory would lag behind our change-over and convert a year later on this product since the output from here in the main always ships to non-RoHS territories only. This was a pragmatic approach so that if we later found a major reliability problem with the RoHS version, the company still had some products to sell to customers who did not require a RoHS compliant product!

In fact, having monitored our internal and external return rates before and after the change-over we have found no significant change in our MTBF figures. Of course there have been a few reliability issues, but almost all have been as a result of supplied component batch problems rather than lead-free soldering or assembly

defects. Armed with this data we were able to confidently convert the US factory to build this product fully RoHS compliant too.

All this said, it has not been quite all plain sailing with lead-free. I'm reminded very often that there don't seem to be that many new problems caused by lead-free but we just seem to encounter old problems, seen years ago with standard lead solder, which are well documented and had been thought to be already solved by the industry. Perhaps we just have to accept that it takes time to adjust to a new learning curve, or maybe the narrow process window has re-excited the defects which had previously been cured. We will be giving more details of our challenges at the SMART Group event to be held here on December 5th

The workshop will cover:

- Why use selective soldering
- User experience of selective and wave soldering with lead-free
- PCB design rules for selective soldering
- Flux requirements for wave and selective soldering
- Compatibility of solder masks and lead-free solder
- Setting up lead-free profiles
- Solder alloy choices
- Cost of lead-free process operation
- Inspection criteria for lead-free joints
- Copper dissolution with selective and wave soldering
- Soldering defects on selective and wave – Causes and Cures



DOLBY MANUFACTURING

In addition to developing superior technologies for digital audio, Dolby also manufactures a wide variety of professional tools that create a state-of-the-art entertainment experience.

They have been manufacturing professional products since the company began in the mid-1960s, founded by Ray Dolby. Today, Dolby is known around the world for producing dependable products for industries such as film, television, DVD, music, and gaming. Their standards of quality and reliability are upheld by maintaining tight control of the manufacturing process and by utilizing extensive automation during the assembly process, which ensures accuracy and repeatability.

Dolby is committed to working toward improved environmental sustainability in its business activities—both internally and through development of new techniques for the film and manufacturing industries. Promoting greener working practices makes sense for the environment, its employees and customers. It also makes sense economically by reducing operating costs. Dolby is committed to preserving the environment and recycling of electronic products.

SMART Group acknowledges the contribution of Dolby Laboratories in its support of our work over many years to meet the challenges of the WEEE & RoHS Legislation. This includes the hosting of two SMART/DTI, Department of Trade & Industry, forums at Dolby. These gave our members the opportunity to voice their views on impending legislation, in 2003 at the first consultation stage and in 2004 at stage 3.



Assembleon MG-1 and DEK Horizon



Vitronics Soltec selective soldering machine



SEMINAR / WORKSHOP TOUR

OCT/NOV 2007 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As we close the book on the first seminar / workshop tour undertaken by the newly formed South African SMART Group we recognize the amount of work ahead to face the ever demanding needs of this hi-tech industry. We can consider that the need for information, knowledge and real experience is there. It has been my passion for many years that the industry will come together and face the challenges ahead, I can say with confidence, this process has begun, and even though there are many improvements that can be made, the recent tour was an outstanding success.

Maybe the quantity of people was not what we had hoped for, but the quality certainly was, and on some of the days we had to rearrange the programme to accommodate additional delegates.

The combination of seminar and workshop was also an interesting mix, with some companies booking up to 8 spaces on the workshop, there is

a real thirst for experience. To all those individuals, organizations & companies that participated, I thank you, this includes the sponsors and those who supplied equipment and staff.

At this point we also have to say a big thank you to Bob Willis, MaryBeth Allen and Keith Bryant. The wealth of knowledge and experience they bring to our shores is immeasurable.

The plan for next year is already coming together, with dates during April and September / October being a focus. There is also the possibility of running smaller monthly mini-seminars, more to follow when we have information.

Again, thank you to all those that supported the common goal of growing our local electronic manufacturing industry.

Steve Eglinton *Chairman – SMART Group SA*

FIRST SOUTH AFRICA EVENTS



MaryBeth Allen with delegates



Keith Bryant and Steve Eglinton



PAST EVENT

PRACTICAL LEAD-FREE REWORK AND REPAIR WORKSHOP

Speakers and Exhibitors at the 'Practical Lead-Free Rework and Repair Workshop' held at The Oxfordshire in September.



DIARY 2007

November 29th

High Reliability Manufacturing & Test
Ringaskiddy, Co Cork

December 5th

Lead-Free Wave & Selective Soldering
Workshop + Manufacturing Facility Tour
Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire

DIARY 2008

January 22nd

Production Equipment Selection Workshop
The Oxfordshire

February 7th

PCB Design & Manufacture Workshop – Two
Agilent Technologies, South Queensferry

February 19th

SMART Group Stacked Die Workshop
The Oxfordshire

March 18th

Conformal Coating Workshop
The Oxfordshire

April 29th – 1st May

'SMART POWER DRIVES NEPCON'
NEPCON EXHIBITION 2008

Featuring Spotlight on Technology AOI & X-Ray
Inspection and Full Seminar Programme



PAST EVENT

SMART Group at JJS Electronics

Delegates attending the "Surface Mount Technology from A-Z Workshop," at JJS Electronics in Leicestershire.



SCOTLAND EVENT PCB DESIGN & MANUFACTURE WORKSHOP



The first (November) of two linked events held in Scotland, PCB Design & Manufacture Workshop, in conjunction with Northern UK Circuits Group, (Part 2 on February 7th 2008)

