

WELCOME TO OUR THIRD OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER

The electronics industry continues to be more buoyant and this issue reports on a lively Nepcon exhibition with SMART Group participation in the Process Technology Seminars sponsored by EM&T and the SMART Group Experience 2, a real hands-on event sponsored by EMP. Congratulations to Reeds on an excellent show and fun evening on the pier. Brighton really is a special location and that's why we invite you back again in November for the SMART Group 6th biennial European Conference.



Interest in the event has been very high. We expect another sell-out. If you think Brighton in November is not appealing, then think again. This year especially should not be missed, the focus is lead-free. Nine first class workshops, two keynote presentations, gala dinner, interesting after dinner presentation, question-time on opening evening, exhibition plus much more. Do come and enjoy yourself ... **Mike Judd**



SMART Group welcomed new technical committee members, L to R Liam Murphy Astrium (host for SMART Group Meeting), Andy Bonner (Diagnosys), Andy Kellard (Europlacer/Speedprint) and Mike Fenner (Indium).

SMART Group AGM



Peter Marshall,
Chairman SMART Group.

The SMART Group took the opportunity at Nepcon to hold its AGM on Wednesday 26th May. Chairman - Peter Marshall thanked the steering committee for their support over the past 12 months in particular the strategy review that culminated in the new SMART brochure introducing the revised levels of membership and promoting the amalgamation of TISA. Financially the group is sound and membership levels are good.

Although the original DTI funded PPM project has now reached an end there is still ongoing feedback being provided. SMART's association with Nepcon continues with both the Process Seminars and Lead-Free Experience2 playing an important role at Nepcon 2004. Lead-Free remains high on the technical agenda and SMART has been invited to join as an active partner in the EEC funded Lead-Out project. Despite the difficult industry trading conditions over the past few years SMART has stood firm and with business now improving SMART is looking forward to a successful and buoyant biennial European conference in November. The formalities of officer re election were completed and Keith Bryant of Dage Precision Industries was unanimously voted onto the steering committee to fill the single vacancy.



Left to Right
 Rob Horsley - Celestica,
 Amy Faulkner - Editor EMP,
 Alan Brewin - NPL
 Steve Mainwaring - Solectron

*'Fantastic event,
 the hands-on was
 an experience'*

SMART Group Experience 2



Over 100 engineers booked on 'SMART Group Hands-On Experience 2' which provided practical experience of short seminars and practical work, with lead-free boards, components and solder alloys. Coordinator of the Experience 2 Bob Willis said "This year the feature worked like a dream, every delegate got down to processing their own boards so they could gain first hand knowledge on what to expect" "We made sure for the second year of this event that although delegates were out of the office for the day they still had to work hard"

Delegate's comments back so far include:

"Excellent, difficult to pack anything else into 4 hours"

"Made me realise what was involved, we need to start working on this now"

"Very useful and enjoyable event"



Help Zone: As manufacturers small, medium and large, make the move to lead-free electronics assembly and test, it is inevitable that questions and queries will arise regarding products and processing. One of the advantages of attending Experience 2 was the opportunity to discuss these issues with experts from the leading EMS providers Celestica & Solectron and the UK centre for materials science, the National Physical Laboratory.



SMART Group would like to thank all the participants, plus Rob Horsley - Celestica, Stephen Mainwaring - Solectron and Alan Brewin - NPL.

Also the support of EMP Magazine and Technical Director of SMART - Bob Willis.





Peter Grundy chairs the session.

“There was a good mixture of topics from materials scientists describing mathematical models of joint failures to the financial implications of the various directives.”

Nepcon process seminars

There are very many companies and individuals who are aware of the forthcoming impact of Pb-free soldering and materials in electronics but, surprisingly, few of them have learned all there is to know or have prepared for the legislation. Consequently, most of the lectures in the Process Seminar series had a Pb-free theme and were virtual sell-outs.

There was a good mixture of topics from materials scientists describing mathematical models of joint failures through the analysis of Pb-free joints and the resurgence of Vapour Phase soldering to the financial implications of the various directives. All interests were catered for a varied audience during the course of two days. With a packed programme and in order to keep to strict timings, there could not be question and answer sessions immediately after each session but delegates were encouraged to talk to speakers privately after each presentation. There were clearly many questions and most speakers found the time to spend an hour or so with the delegates.

Most of the attendees had pre-registered but those who had joined at the last moment were told that they would still get papers and information if they left business cards. Probably around 10% of the delegates fell into this category. In the past, the seminar area has tended to be in an open area where the acoustics are bad but this year the chosen area had a lower ceiling and stands on one side only so that the speakers had little difficulty in being heard. The lighting was also just enough for the slides to be clearly visible and yet allow easy access for delegates.

We must conclude that the seminars were a success and will always be so if the chosen topic has direct relevance and is presented in an environment where minimal interruptions occur. Thanks to EM&T magazine for their organization, with SMART Group, for a successful event.

Peter Grundy, Chairman SMART Technical Committee

SMART GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Just to remind you that SMART membership now includes one year free subscription to the SMTA with full benefits including discounted products, seminars, access to technical papers and data, plus inclusion in the technical forum.

Already 102 members have enrolled by sending an e-mail to me requesting subscription which I then forward. The SMTA will then get back to you and ask for your Company details as I cannot give them out (DPA) and will subscribe you. Many members have already given very positive feedback as to the benefits of this free membership opportunity.

Tony Gordon



DIARY 2004

30 September

Advanced Reliability and Test Techniques for Lead-Free Assemblies
Tin Technology, St Albans

16-18 November

SMART Group European Conference
Old Ship Hotel, Brighton

DIARY 2005

3 February

7th Annual Lead-Free Seminar
+ Table-top exhibition
Wycombe FC Conference facility

11-12 May

Nepcon Electronics Exhibition
Brighton

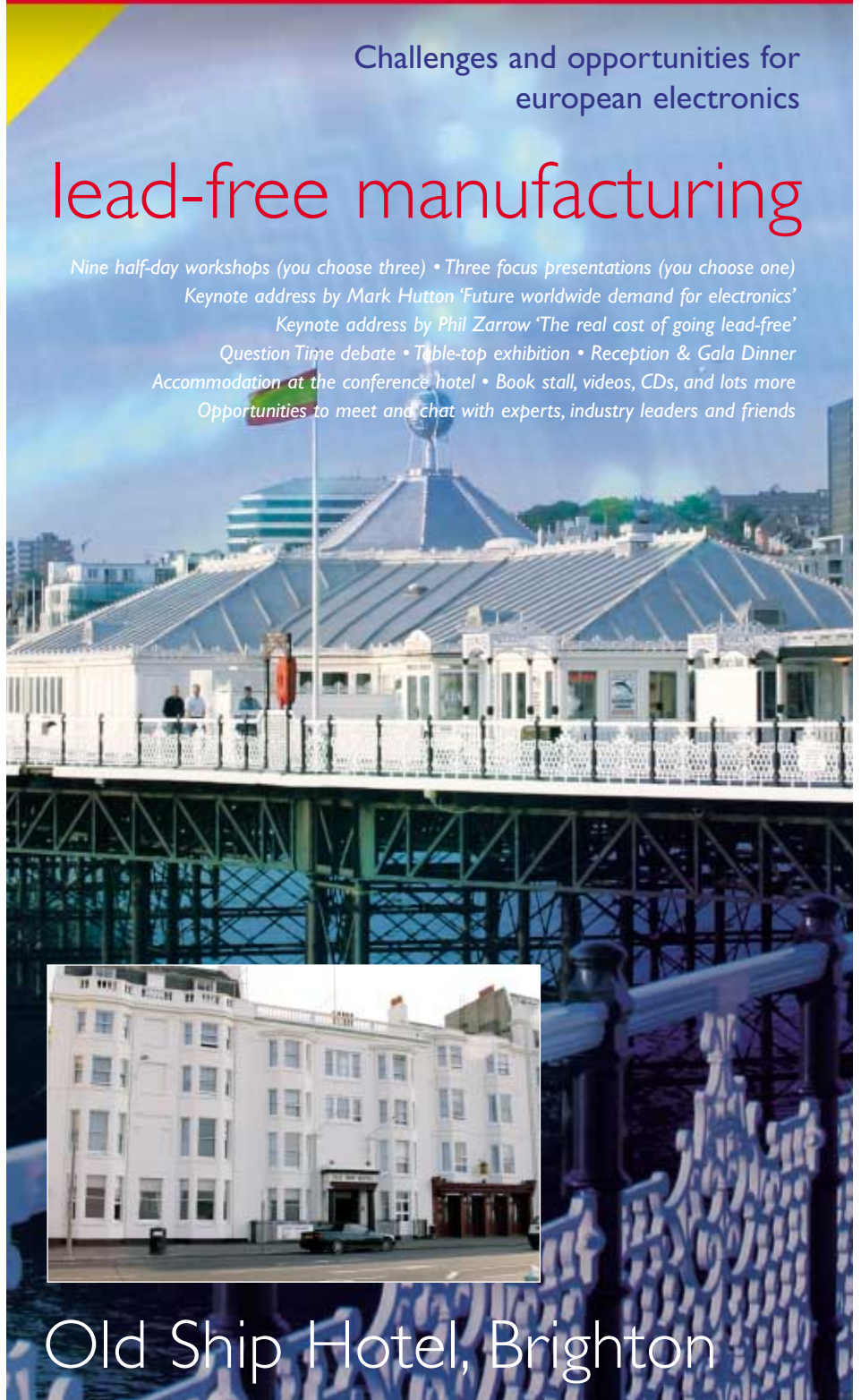
Upcoming Event

SMART Group European Conference

Challenges and opportunities for european electronics

lead-free manufacturing

*Nine half-day workshops (you choose three) • Three focus presentations (you choose one)
Keynote address by Mark Hutton 'Future worldwide demand for electronics'
Keynote address by Phil Zarrow 'The real cost of going lead-free'
Question Time debate • Table-top exhibition • Reception & Gala Dinner
Accommodation at the conference hotel • Book stall, videos, CDs, and lots more
Opportunities to meet and chat with experts, industry leaders and friends*



Old Ship Hotel, Brighton