

Soldertec... the lead-free resource centre www.lead-free.org

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BREAKING NEWS

We have moved to
new premises.



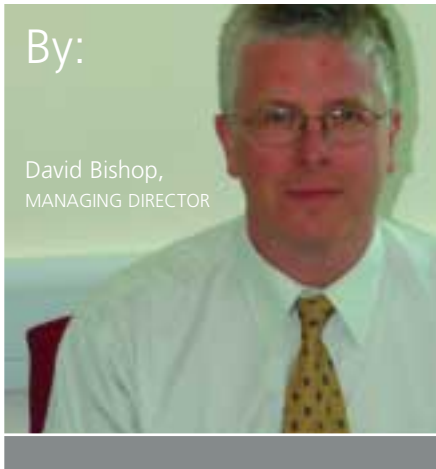
We are delighted to inform you that we have moved into our new facility. You can find us at the following address:
Soldertec,
Unit 3, Curo Park,
Frogmore, St Albans,
Hertfordshire. AL2 2DD
Tel: +44 (0)870 458 4242
Fax: +44 (0) 870 458 4273

By the time you read this we will have settled in and our excellent new labs should be fitted out. We hope to welcome you to our new home in coming months.

Welcome to our Newsletter

By:

David Bishop,
MANAGING DIRECTOR



From all the team at Soldertec Global a warm welcome to this first edition of our newsletter. We plan to issue this web based magazine ten times a year to all our membership, packing it with news features, articles, diaries, questions and answers, and much much more to help and inform anyone who is involved in the implementation of lead-free soldering processes. Our aim is to keep you right up to date on all the key issues and events.

We have added the word "Global" to Soldertec recognising that lead-free implementation is now a reality and is taking place on a global scale. The impact of regional legislation and market forces will be felt throughout the global supply chain. The organisation is evolving to reflect this and our newsletter will bring you news and features from around the world. In this first edition we profile Nihon Superior, a Japanese solder manufacturer which has a

partnership with European solder producers Balver Zinn and DKL and with Thailand Smelting & Refining Co. Ltd (THAISARCO) in Thailand. We hope that issue by issue the Soldertec newsletter will build into a source of knowledge that every engineer and designer will read and save for reference. For this we need your help. We need you to keep us aware of any published information your organisation has produced that could help us build this source of knowledge. We will be archiving these newsletters and your articles for downloading from our website.

Finally, I would like to welcome Tom Perrett as the latest member of the Soldertec team. Tom will be known to many of you, having worked for almost 20 years in electronic soldering, most recently as Regional Sales Manager for Loctite Multicore. You will be hearing in future newsletters from Tom about some of the new membership benefits we are introducing as part of the Soldertec Global initiative.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

If you have forgotten your password to website please email: tony.wallace@tinttechnology.com

The event of the year! June 10-12 2003

Soldertec & IPC sponsor major conference.

Soldertec and IPC announce an International Conference on Lead-Free Electronics 'Towards Implementation of the RHS Directive' Brussels June 10-12 2003

Soldertec is delighted to announce its participation in this event with IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries. With presentations from Europe, US and Japan this Global Conference on Lead-Free Electronics will bring together the industry's top experts. All the details and full programme are on the front page of the Soldertec web page.
BOOK NOW! TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. For more see Kay's Column page 2.

KAY'S COLUMN



Don't miss the conference

As you will have seen on the front page, Soldertec is co-sponsoring a major Lead-Free Conference in June. Now that the EU RHS Directive (Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment) has been published, all affected electrical equipment put on sale in Europe after July 1, 2006 will be required to be lead-free. All suppliers, assemblers and retailers need to be aware of the current situation in order to achieve lead-free product sales by 2006.

To help the industry prepare for this momentous change, IPC and Soldertec liaised together to sponsor a Global Conference on Lead-Free Electronics, to be held June 10-12, 2003, in Brussels, Belgium. This event will bring the industry's top experts together for a timely event.

There are presentations from Europe, US and Japan on a range of topics: examples of wave and reflow production experiences, investigations of reliability, comparison of the different solder types, results of important tin whisker test projects, new production techniques, component and board identification techniques, impact assessment of alternative metals plus discussion of the legislation from the DTI and European Commission. There are also workshops on lead-free from experts such as Jennie Wang and John Lau. I will be presenting 'European and International Roadmaps for Lead-Free Technology'.

All the details and full programme are available on <http://ipcmil.ipc.org/bruslf/index.html> or from the front page of the Soldertec website www.lead-free.org
I look forward to seeing you in sunny Brussels in June!

Member's Profile - NIHON SUPERIOR

It is our aim every month to bring you details of a Soldertec member. For our first profile David Hayes talks to a Japanese solder maker at the forefront of the move to lead-free - NIHON SUPERIOR.

Lead-Free solder promises to cause a revolution in the international electronics industry as electronics manufacturers and other users of solder worldwide are expected to convert to lead-free solder in the future. Although many solder users are based in countries where the use of lead-free solder is not a legal requirement, many solder users export components and finished products to markets with tougher environmental protection regulations, requiring them to use lead-free and other polluting materials.

Since the late 1990s Japan has taken a lead in the development and introduction of lead-free solder. As a result Japanese lead-free solder specifications are likely to be adopted worldwide in the future as other countries gradually require conventional solder to be replaced by lead-free products.

The development of lead-free solder presents Japan's solder industry with challenges as well as new business opportunities. Smaller solder companies, for example, may find it difficult to maintain the level of investment needed to develop new solder products. While for large solder suppliers the advent of lead-free solder has opened up potential new overseas business opportunities as solder users in Asia, Europe and North America, still reliant on conventional solder, look to Japan for lead-free solder technology as their markets gradually follow the trend to use lead-free products.

One Japanese solder manufacturer looking to develop worldwide sales of lead-free solder is Nihon Superior Co Ltd. In addition to supplying customers in existing markets with lead-free solder, the company is making preparations to supply customers in new markets by establishing co-operative manufacturing arrangements for lead-free products with new partners in important countries worldwide.

"It is not easy to estimate the export potential of lead-free solder from Japan to Asia, Europe and the United States in the future because it depends on how widespread the adoption of lead-free soldering is in these markets," commented Nihon Superior Executive Director, Tetsuro Nishimura, "However, because we can offer customers the benefits of our considerable experience of producing lead-free solder over the past four years, we expect to win a significant share of the market outside Japan."

To ensure fast reliable delivery to customers in Europe and North America, Nihon Superior has in place or is making arrangements for the manufacture of its lead-free solder under co-operative agreements in a number of key markets, the company's partners in these markets are Krayden Inc and Florida CirTech in the United States, Balver Zinn in Germany and DKL Metals in the UK.

Founded in 1966 by Tetsuro Nishimura, the company's President, Nihon Superior was established originally to market the products of Superior Flux Mfg. & Co of Ohio along with other soldering and brazing materials imported from overseas through Matsushita Electric Trading Co Ltd of Japan which is now the Corporate International Trade Division of Matsushita Electric Co Ltd.

This is part of an 8 page article – to read more visit our website.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Epson declares Solders 98.6% Lead-Free

Seika Epson Corp. is a company making strenuous efforts to eliminate lead from all its products. Last year Epson announced that 98.6% of the solders it used in-house manufacturing processes were lead-free. It also stated that 40% of the total number of parts purchased under the company's lead elimination programme were lead-free. As part of its programme, Epson has sought to increase understanding of lead-free products by producing a pamphlet called 'The road to Lead-Free Soldering'.

Sanmina-SCI takes proactive, environmental leadership role

Sanmina-SCI Corporation, San Jose, CA, a leading EMS provider, is solidifying its reputation for advanced technology leadership and superior quality by proactively developing lead-free processes and implementing its RoHS (Reduction of Hazardous Substances) programme in all facilities worldwide. In addition, the company has also undertaken a leadership initiative in educating and bringing suppliers into alignment with its environmentally friendly programmes. "We are actively working with our customers and suppliers to ensure that they are in accordance with the European environmental regulations which go into effect in 2006 and in advance of other North American or global environmental initiatives", said Khalid Ruhullah, Vice President of Worldwide Environmental Affairs. "By working together, providing our suppliers and customers with guidelines, we're creating quality products and a quality environmental future as well."

Soletron to manufacture Olympus Technologies' first lead-free product

Soletron, in Milpitas California, a leading provider of electronics manufacturing and supply management services, announced that it had been selected to manufacture the first lead-free product for Olympus Technologies Singapore Pte Ltd (OST). The agreement strengthens Soletron's leading role in helping companies transition to lead-free assemblies to meet emerging global requirements banning lead from electronics products. Under the terms of the agreement, Soletron is providing lead-free printed circuit board assembly, testing and volume manufacturing for a miniature optical scan engine designed by Olympus for one of its OEM customers. Soletron will produce the lead-free product in Singapore. "In response to the global movement towards environmentally friendly products, Olympus has adopted companywide targets and programmes based on the Olympus' 2002 environmental plan," says Tomoo Ito, OST Managing Director. "We are pleased to work with Soletron, which has vast experience in lead-free manufacturing, to produce our first lead-free optical product in Singapore."

read more on this at www.lead-free.org

Dates for your diary 2003

June 10-12

Soldertec/IPC International Conference on Lead-Free - Brussels

June 11-12

Nepcon - Brighton, UK

June 23-24

International IEEE Conference on Asian Green Electronics (AGEC) - Hong-Kong

June 25-27

International IEEE Conference on Asian Green Electronics (AGEC) - Shenzhen

July 10

EID Awards - London Gatwick

September 23

CEMCEX 2003 - Prague, Czech Republic

September 25

CEMCEX - Gyor, Hungary

November 11-14

Productronica - Munich

July 2006 European WEEE & RoHS directive becomes legislation.

Soldertec in the press

'Using maps to find Pb-free path' (EM&T Feb/April 2003)

Following Kay Nimmo's piece in the February issue of EM&T where she outlined the progress being made in European legislation - this article is an obvious extension to that. What should your company be doing now and what will you need in the near future? Using technology roadmaps, Kay answers some of the many questions thrown up by the lead-free issue.

To read this article visit our web site www.lead-free.org

IPC releases attendance numbers for APEX 2003

IPC reports that 3,600 attendees gathered in Anaheim, California for the IPC SMEMA Council's APEX 2003, held March 31-April 2.

APEX attracted 7,200 total visitors (attendees and exhibitors) to the Anaheim Convention Centre, which housed 393 booths covering more than 157,200 net sq ft of exhibition space. The APEX professional development courses welcomed 650 participants and 620 attended the technical conference. Also, this year's event attracted the highest ever attendance for IPC's forum for EMS executives, with a total of 65 senior level managers.

Next year, IPC will co-locate APEX and IPC Printed Circuit Expo together on February 24-26, at the Anaheim Convention Centre. The combined show floor will be the largest North American exhibition for the entire electronics industry.