

Quality, essential for growth

Once, it was thought the drive for cheap offshore manufacturing would finish the UK contract electronic manufacturing industry. However, local suppliers fought back, providing service, support and quality difficult to source overseas. In this article, South Wales-based contract electronics manufacturer, Camtronics, illustrates how the thoughtful selection of inspection technology is playing a key role in this growth

Camtronics' service covers component procurement, surface mount and through-hole PCB population, final product test and distribution. The company specialises in technically and logistically demanding contract assembly mainly for aerospace, medical, industrial process control, military and automotive applications. Such companies must be sure their CEM understands their detailed requirements and can respond quickly, flexibly and effectively to problems or design changes. Assemblies must arrive on schedule, while meeting demanding specifications and reliability standards.

Camtronics states its growth over recent years was driven by providing customers with guaranteed quality for small, medium and large assembly

volumes, while achieving fast turn around. The backbone of this strategy is an emphasis on quality to support the growing customer base.

A recent move to new premises let Camtronics install the latest placement and solder equipment, while updating its automated optical inspection equipment. Camtronics has always used AOI systems to inspect board components but wanted to go further and automatically check soldering that was previously inspected manually.

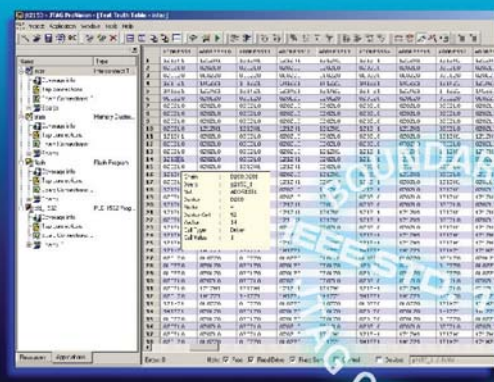
The goal was to find a system to enhance the process and fit existing management protocols. AOI systems were assessed for programming speed and fault finding capabilities. Camtronics' business model demanded an inspection system suitable for new product introduction and higher runners. With a focus on checking solder, it was important the



system featured the lighting, image and software capabilities to check for joint, lifted lead and bridging conditions. Naturally, all other routine part inspections (correct part,

orientation, position etc) also had to be catered for.

Camtronics' chose YESTech's B3 bench top AOI. Fusion lighting, coupled with the ability to analyse



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down to 01005 components, gave the edge on solder inspection, plus colour filter and matching techniques for detecting subtle faults like fine pitch lifted leads. Part recognition checks are standard and programming through QA controlled libraries is quick and easy. Links to the quality management system are supported via the B3's factory floor automation software, direct SPC data outputs and dedicated offline programming and board rework capabilities. Camtronics has placed further emphasis on AOI by dedicating an engineer to B3 programming, inline support and control.

Camtronics' CEO, Simon York, said: "The YESTech B3 came through best for us on the technical trials. But, as CEO, I was looking for other things as well and I was impressed by the number of systems already installed by YESTech in the UK and around the world and by the value of the package offered by Cupio (YESTech's UK representative) including the installation, on site training and full support, which are all important to us."



www.camtronics.ltd.uk
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Camtronics' turnover has doubled to over £3m and more is expected. YESTech's B3 AOI will be vital for growth

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