

2007 – Spur Electron achieve ESA qualification of Automatic SMT Line

Following planned changes to PSS-01-738, which will result in a new standard ECSS-Q-70-38 allowing Automatic SMT placement, Spur took steps to become ESA approved using a dedicated DIMA Placement Line and Vapour Phase Reflow system.

Spur's qualified line was fully functional and approved prior to the official release of the new standard resulting in Spur being the first independent assembly house to be fully compliant with the new ESA standard.

The qualification process was carried out 100% under the control of Ian Turner (Spur Senior Component Engineer), all micro-sectional and analysis work was completed within Spur Laboratory under the control of Cathy Barnes. Environmental testing was completed by a partner company close to Spur premises.

The new approval will enable Spur to offer a cost-effective solution for higher volume requirements and / or densely populated smt assemblies. In addition, Spur is able to offer reduced lead-time enabling customer to achieve tight timescale currently being set by both NASA and commercial satellite projects.

Spur will continue to qualify new package types (Large QFP's, BGA,s, LGAs etc.) to add to the initial approval.