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powerful solutions

RoodMicrotec Newsletter 6

Number 6, December 2011 • RoodMicrotec

Strengthening of market position in 2012

Looking back on 2011, our strong growth in the second half of 2010 continued into the first half of 2011. For the full year 2011, growth will not be as positive as we expected initially. This was partly due to the political uncertainty in the eurozone.

The situation among our customers offers a mixed picture. Some are still growing strongly, while others are beginning to experience a downturn. The market as a whole does not offer a consistent picture either. For example, some major players are introducing short-time working, while others are maintaining their growth forecasts in full.

In spite of this mixed picture, we are optimistic about 2012 and feel convinced that we will be able to further strengthen our market position.

RoodMicrotec: a successful service provider

Mr Wil Fluit, who was recently appointed to RoodMicrotec's supervisory board, has 42 years' experience in the semiconductor industry. For example, he worked as Director & Vice President Assembly & Test Memory with Siemens Semiconductors Germany and as Managing Director and Vice President & Country Manager and was a Member of the Global Management Team Siemens / Infineon Technologies Malaysia. Currently he is an independent consultant, and a member of the Advisory Board Advanced Packaging Centre The Netherlands, among other things.

With his long experience he expects to be able to contribute to RoodMicrotec's further growth and to a strengthening of its market position. Mr Fluit praised the enterprising, dynamic and determined management team supported by motivated, capable and flexible employees. He was also impressed by the comprehensiveness of the company's services.

'These things make RoodMicrotec a highly interesting, capable and flexible partner for almost all companies in the semiconductor industry, in which activities are increasingly being subcontracted. With its broad expertise and know-how, RoodMicrotec truly covers the entire spectrum from first engineering to end-product. Also, the company is well placed to respond to market developments. 'I consider it a great challenge for RoodMicrotec to become the preferred and number one service provider in Europe in the areas of testing, test engineering, programming, failure & technology analysis, qualification & reliability investigation and complete supply chain management.'

Strategy aimed at expanding test equipment and test engineering

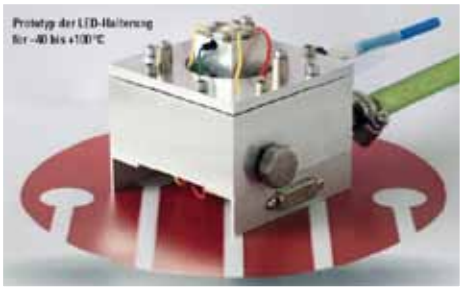
'Over the past two months our production test activities have been moved from Stuttgart to Nördlingen. All production test systems are now located in Nördlingen.

Nördlingen currently has 16 test systems, which has significantly increased the critical mass for production. We are now able to synchronise activities better, increasing synergies and efficiency,' said CTO and Managing Director Norbert Wirth. 'We aim to further expand our test platform over the next 2 to 3 years.
The business unit Test Engineering is divided across both locations, with 6 test engineers in Nördlingen and 5 in Stuttgart. The headcount in Nördlingen will be increased to 10 engineers and Stuttgart will be stable in over the next 3 years.
Technically we will focus on LTX Credence D10 test development in Stuttgart. Nördlingen will focus on Credence DUO, SZ and Teradyne Flex test systems. In order to better fulfil our customers' requirements for the different HiRel, Fabless and Consulting markets, we will expand our activities further by using external test engineers.
Within next 3 years our target is to increase test engineering revenue. We are convinced that we will meet the challenge together with our highly motivated and very experienced engineers.'

Consistent quality of LED lighting

In this interview Gottfried Schmitt, project leader with RoodMicrotec, discusses how to secure consistent quality in LEDs.

LED lighting is advancing rapidly and increasingly replacing classical lighting. For example, LEDs are now being used in flatscreen TVs, car lights, indoor general lighting, traffic lights and street lighting.
LEDs are different from other light sources in their low energy usage, durability, small size and the great variety of colours and applications. But they also have disadvantages. The brightness and colour of the LED depend largely on ambient temperature. In applications for which consistent quality is vital, such as in automotive industry and in aeronautical and aerospace applications, this is unacceptable. To secure the required performance and durability, you have to know the behaviour of specific LED parameters under certain conditions. This requires measurements.



For many years RoodMicrotec has performed characterisation, qualification, and classification of single LEDs and LED lamps. Now an excellent method has been developed to perform measurements particularly suited for high-power LEDs. In a flexible and semi-automatic test set-up with good active temperature control and adequate cooling all the relevant LED parameters are measured across a broad temperature range of between -40 to +100° C at currents to over 1000 mA. In this way, both performance and colour parameters can be measured, as well as voltage-current and thermal resistance characteristics.

'In this way, we can establish the LED's characteristics in a wide range of conditions', Gottfried.

We wish everyone connected to RoodMicrotec a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Colophon

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