

# Out-going Chairman's Report

**Being the Chairman of COG UK 2008/2009 has been an experience which I would not have missed for the world and I thank Rob Crawford, Managing Director of CMCA (UK), for giving me the opportunity and support to be able to undertake the role.**

There have been many significant developments through the year, culminating in the delivery of the 6th International COG Conference at Cambridge in June, where I will hand over the role of Chairman to Nigel Wallis.

My first role as a COG representative was at the Society of Underwater Technology's symposium on obsolescence management in June 2008. This was a great success and helped COG to forge new relationships within the oil and gas sector.

As Chairman, I also wanted to introduce a project-management environment into COG, and to embrace technology in the day-to-day operation. One of the successes has been the Quarterly Meeting (QM) panel where we set out a proposal of a 12-month QM programme with venues and presentations secured. We achieved a 75% success rate and continue to manage this task effectively.

The Steering Group (SG) meetings have also changed, becoming more dynamic and informative which has enabled them to be reduced to half a day. This change has been beneficial because attendance by all COG Directors and has promoted good relationships between the SG and Directors, and supported the formation of COG policies and future plans.

There was a change of TMT Associates ownership in January 2009, when they were acquired by the International Tin Research Institute (ITRI). At the same time, COG co-founder and CEO, Mike Trenchard, retired and Ian Blackman took on the role as CEO. Ian had a steep learning curve to follow but, with



continued support from Chris and Sue, he is fulfilling the gap left by Mike and excelling in it. With an established reputation throughout the defence and electronics industries, Ian brings huge experience which will benefit COG in areas such as new Government initiatives to new industry sectors.

Account management and membership initiatives are important to the sustainability of COG and growing the membership is a core objective within the Secretariat. One initiative supported through the SG has been for SG members to tell their own customers about COG, whilst information packs are another means of promoting membership of COG.

The External Liaison Group has published three Minefield booklets this year, which is a great achievement. The three new titles available from the COG Shop are:

- Emulation by Alun Jones (TS2).
- The Obsolescence Tools Minefield by Ian Blackman (TMT Associates) and Roger Rogowski (Minco Technologies).
- The Counterfeit Electronic Components Minefield by Charles Battersby (Semelab).

On the European front, the inauguration of COG Italia is still on-going and we maintain a watching brief to support them as required. There has been dialogue and meetings with interested parties in discussing ways in which COG UK can work with the obsolescence group, UTE, and a provisional meeting has been scheduled for July.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have supported me during my time in the Chair and helped me to achieve my personal objectives as Chairman. The SG has appointed Nigel Wallis of Active Electronics and Graeme Rummey of Sellafeld Ltd., to be Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, for 2009/2010.

As always your feedback, presentation ideas and venue suggestions, as well as constructive criticism, will continue to be invaluable and help the SG to gauge how well we are serving the needs of the membership.

Have a great summer, enjoy yourselves and I look forward to seeing you at future quarterly meetings.

**Tim Elliott**

COG Chairman 2008/9

An interactive CD-ROM containing over twenty presentations from the **6th COG International Conference** is available from the COG shop, priced at £50. The presentations cover obsolescence and counterfeiting issues and are given by experts from the defence, rail, undersea and nuclear industries as well as from the supply chain and industry associations. The CD-ROM also includes presenter biographies, exhibition data and additional COG information. For more information, including a list of presentation topics, please email [admin@cog.org.uk](mailto:admin@cog.org.uk)

# COG UK welcomes Nigel Wallis as new Chairman

**Despite a very uncertain economic climate, I am entering my year as Chairman of COG with a high degree of optimism. I have an excellent Steering Group to support me, with colleagues from a wide range of disciplines. Not least of course is the Vice-Chairman, Graeme Rumney, who brings his experience in software in the nuclear industry. Given that I am a dyed-in-the-wool aerospace and defence chap, I am looking forward to gaining new insights from Graeme. Even the demographic has an interesting dynamic: Graeme lives in the North-West of England; and I am in the South-East!**

I intend to build on the achievements of the outgoing Chairman, Tim, and our CEO, Ian, whilst bringing some of my own ideas to COG UK. One aspect of COG I am particularly keen to continue to develop is the on-going establishment of more formal procedures and working practices. Although I now work in an SME, after spending 14 years in a large OEM, my boss is correct when he points out that "You can take the boy out of the corporation, but you can't take the corporation out of the boy". That said, it is of course vitally important to remember that all COG members contribute their time voluntarily which is a fact that all of us on the SG appreciate enormously.

I also intend to increase the already strong drive for new members. Whilst of course our current loyal members are greatly appreciated, it is vital that COG evolves in order to survive and grow. This drive will, by its very nature, include continuing to develop COG Italia and COG France.



In addition, however, I hope to initiate Focus Days on particular industries, such as the railway industry, which is a direct response to feedback from COG members.

Ideas from the COG membership are always valued and I can often be found in the vicinity of the bar at Quarterly Meetings. Alternatively, you can email me on [nigel.wallis@active-electronics.co.uk](mailto:nigel.wallis@active-electronics.co.uk) or call me on 07976 799885. I welcome any input you may have, whether it is a grand idea or a small niggler.

I am looking forward immensely to working with you all in this coming year.

**Nigel Wallis**  
Chairman, COG 2009/10

*Nigel has worked at Active Electronics for 5 years, originally as an Account Manager and currently as a Project Business Development Manager. He was previously part of the procurement team at Ultra Electronics.*



## Graeme Rumney: new Vice-Chairman for COG UK

**Unlike the past and present Chairmen of COG UK, my current role, outside COG, is as a Technical Manager in the Control Systems department at Sellafield, the location of Calder Hall, the world's first commercial nuclear power station.**

I have been employed at Sellafield for over 21 years, mainly in the Control Systems Department, but also in a number of other roles including the development of radiometric instrumentation systems, commissioning, systems engineering, systems management, regulatory improvement projects and quality management. Currently, my responsibilities include the centralised development of asset management policies, strategies and plans, and the provision of maintenance and support contracts for the 1,400 installed Programmable Electronic Systems in use at Sellafield. I am also an Incorporated Engineer, and a member of the Institute of Measurement and Control.

Coming from a different background to the Chairman, my objective as Vice-Chairman will be to introduce new ideas and to expand COG's influence into sectors such as the oil and gas, energy, and nuclear industries.

I'm looking forward to the challenges that the role of Vice Chairman presents and I believe that the COG membership has a wealth of experience to share with others. My goal will be to explore how we can use this experience and expertise to maximise the revenue from non-members and through collaboration with other organisations.

*Graeme Rumney has been an active member of COG since 2005 and a member of the Steering Group since 2008. He is also Chairman of the Software Obsolescence Group, and author of the Software Obsolescence Minefield booklet.*

# COG NEWS



## Membership campaigns

We are considering a number of ways to attract members to COG and will be seeking your help to support these campaigns. For example, a £50 Marks & Spencers voucher will be sent to any member who is cited on membership applications forms for referring a new company or individual. Lloyd Francis (above) is shown receiving his voucher for referring new members Penny & Giles, The voucher was presented at Avionics 2009 in Amsterdam although voucher handover will not necessarily be accompanied by international travel!

## Membership certificates

Membership certificates were distributed to members attending the May Quarterly Meeting. Members who did not attend the meeting will receive their certificates during the next few

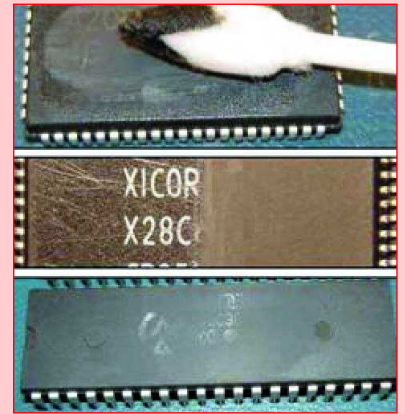
weeks. If details are incorrect, or if you have not received your certificate by the first week of July, please email [iblackman@cog.org.uk](mailto:iblackman@cog.org.uk)

## Membership surveys

Thanks again for all responses to our requests for information recently. We do value your opinions and the Steering Group is committed to addressing your comments.

## Diary Dates

The diary dates for the 2009 Quarterly Meetings are available now on [www.cog.org.uk/diary.asp](http://www.cog.org.uk/diary.asp). This includes the agenda for a new series of workshops covering long-term storage of components, developing an obsolescence management strategy, and measuring obsolescence management performance.



## Why gamble with your chips?

### Soldertec Laboratory takes the gamble out of black-top detection with new test techniques

Using new laboratory techniques, the Soldertec Laboratory at ITRI claims to detect all blacktopped counterfeit ICs. The new service, called the Ultimate Black Top Test, uses the industry-standard IDEA-STD-1010-A and then adds greater depth by testing at higher magnification and adding supplementary tests using advanced techniques, many of which have never previously been used for black-top testing.

How is it done? "We are not saying" declares Soldertec Laboratory Manager, Dr Wayne Lam. "We feel that if we say how it is done, then the counterfeiter may devise a measure to counteract our testing. It is not magic, or if it is then it is £500,000 worth of magic, because that is the cost of the equipment being used in the detection process."

The vast majority of counterfeit parts have been remarked. Occasionally, some will have been pulled from old boards and, sometimes, faulty parts will have not been scrapped at the production facility. However, almost all counterfeit parts will need to be remarked to fool the buyer that what they are receiving is exactly what they ordered. This gives the well-equipped laboratory a chance to identify remarked devices to expose the fraud and mitigate the risk.

The Ultimate test regime takes almost a day to complete as the suspect parts move from lab to lab until all 25 tests are complete. This depth of testing allows the laboratory to pick up all signs of prior use and remarking, with many of the techniques supporting each other and reaffirming earlier suspicions. If a suspect part is found, and confirmation is required, then the part can be de-capped and the die examined in fine detail for additional verification.

More information on the Ultimate Black Top Test is available on [www.Soldertec.com](http://www.Soldertec.com) or by emailing [tom.perrett@itri.co.uk](mailto:tom.perrett@itri.co.uk)

# Members' NEWS



## Advanced Power Components signs distribution agreement with AVX

The specialist electronic component distributor, APC, has signed a distribution agreement with AVX for the US manufacturer's high-reliability capacitors, including tantalum and ceramic capacitors. AVX supplies parts for the military, aerospace and medical markets qualified to AS9100, IECQ-CECC, TS16949-2002 and ISO9001-2000 standards. The company also has a number of products qualified to COTS+, ESCC, SRC, MIL-SPEC and DSCC drawings, as well as optional custom screening and test service capabilities.



## CMCA (UK) appoints Shawn Thomas

Shawn Thomas (above) has joined obsolescence management and spares procurement specialists, CMCA (UK), as a Component Engineer. Shawn brings with

him a wealth of knowledge and experience gained through time spent in the RAF and more recently at GE Aviation, formerly Smiths, at Cheltenham. Shawn's background will be a valuable asset to CMCA (UK) as they assist customers in resolving obsolescence issues and 'making obsolescence obsolete'.

## Oxygen Electronics co-founder elected to IDEA board

Mark Pasdon, co-founder of Oxygen Electronics LLC, was elected to join the Independent Distributors of Electronics Association (IDEA) Board of Directors at their annual meeting in California on 5th June 2009. Oxygen Electronics is now registered with the US Secretary of State to distribute International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) restricted components.

## Rochester acquires National Semiconductor space logic inventory

Rochester Electronics announces the purchase of National Semiconductor Corporation's Space-level Logic inventory. With close to 300 specific part numbers in total, the purchase includes the 1003XX ECL, 54LS, 54F, 54AC, 54ACT, and 54ACTQ microcircuit families. The purchase includes all residual finished goods and wafers, and all the required supporting documentation, such as SEM, wafer lot acceptance, radiation, and X-ray reports. Rochester Electronics is a Qualified Manufacturers List (QML) manufacturer and was approved for Class V by the Defense Supply Center, Columbus (DSCC), in May 2007.

## SSDI launch replacements to 1N rectifiers

SSDI has introduced three new 10A, 50-150V Hyper Fast recovery rectifiers which are higher-current axial replacements for rectifiers. The new 1N7066, 1N7067 and 1N7068 rectifiers are also possible SMS replacements for stud-mount 1N5812, 1N5814 and 1N5816 rectifiers. Screening to TX, TXV and S-Level is available.

## New Members

**COG's drive to recruit new members has resulted in six new member companies this year.**

### **Penny & Giles Aerospace Ltd.,**

**Christchurch:** Part of the Curtis Wright group of companies, Penny & Giles manufacture avionics equipment including air data units, flight recorders, and position sensors. They have recently appointed well-known Steering Group and COG contributor, Lloyd Francis, as European Sales Manager.  
[www.pennyandgiles.com](http://www.pennyandgiles.com)

### **Mass Consultants Ltd.,**

**St Neots:** An independent system house with a strong defence focus. They specialise in electronic warfare, electronic systems and information systems.  
[www.mass.co.uk](http://www.mass.co.uk)

### **Extec Integrated Systems,**

**Portchester:** Designers and manufacturers of microelectronic systems such as thick and thin film hybrids for military and Industrial customers.  
[www.extec.co.uk](http://www.extec.co.uk)

**Tecnologica SA, Spain:** Part of the Alter Group, Tecnologica offer component assessment, procurement and other services for high-reliability components. John Jones, and a number of other former IGG employees, work for Tecnologica in Portsmouth.  
[www.alter-spain.com](http://www.alter-spain.com)

### **BAE Systems Regional Aircraft, Scotland:**

The customer support business for BAE designed commercial and military transport aircraft. Located at Prestwick Airport, they have been rejoined by Andrew Morley, who will be known to many COG members from his attendance at several COG quarterly meetings.  
[www.regional-services.com](http://www.regional-services.com)

**CTS Corporation, Blantyre:** An automotive & EMS service provider based near Glasgow. Their parent company manufactures electronic components in the USA.  
[www.ctscorp.com](http://www.ctscorp.com)

## Contribute to the COG Newsletter

If you have news or comments that you would like to share with other COG members via the newsletter, please email [admin@cog.org.uk](mailto:admin@cog.org.uk) with NEWSLETTER as the subject.