



# Members' Newsletter

## Component Obsolescence Group

# ONE YEAR ON...

**By Ian Blackman, Chairman 2007/2008, COG UK.**

**It has certainly been a busy year for me and, as I review my year as Chairman of COG UK, there are some significant developments to report.**

The initial stages of planning for the 6th COG International Conference on 29th June to 1st July 2009 are already underway and this will, once again, be held in Cambridge. Tim Elliott has been appointed to Chair the Conference Working Group preparing for this event.

On the European front, we have made two trips to Italy, in February and in April, and are very confident that COG Italia will be formally launched later in the year. Some companies from Italy have already joined the UK branch and progress is being made on forming a Steering Group, establishing a web site, media opportunities and a workshop programme for COG Italia.

We have also been scrutinising the management of COG to ensure the relationships between Directors, Steering Group Members and the Secretariat are clear. This helps members to balance increasing work pressures and to accurately budget for COG support. Several Steering Group members attend virtual meetings and are able to participate remotely which facilitates attendance. Cost reduction and time allocation, as well as environmental concerns, are the driving factors for this.

Teri-Ann Winslow has volunteered to lead a focused marketing effort looking at image and promotional opportunities for supplier members. A sub-group of the Steering Group has been formed to focus, via virtual meetings, on securing advance presentations and speakers. This will relieve the pressure on the Secretariat and Chairman, and establish an industry-wide input to enable us to keep our quarterly meetings fresh and interesting.



Another initiative has been to re-establish a membership Working Group to liaise with the COG leadership on expanding membership, and supporting opportunities such as the Oil and Gas Seminar on Obsolescence and Underwater Technology on 24 June 2008.

We are also actively participating in various Government and Industry initiatives and Mike Trenchard has written a very good summary of these that I encourage you and your sponsors to read. Email [admin@cog.org.uk](mailto:admin@cog.org.uk) for a copy of this report.

The External Liaison Group is working on three new booklets that we hope to publish this year. The first will be on Emulation, and will be written by Alun Jones of TS2 Micro.

Thanks for your support and feedback during my year in the chair. The Steering Group have appointed Tim Elliott (Hitek Electronic Materials) and Nigel Wallis (Active Electronics) to be Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively for 2008/2009. Please support Tim and Nigel as they lead you into the conference year. As always, your feedback, ideas for presentations, and constructive criticism will continue to be invaluable.

*Enjoy the Summer and I hope to see you at the Quarterly meetings.*

## COG UK Appoints New Chairman & Vice-Chairman

**Tim Elliott has been appointed as Chairman of COG UK, with Nigel Wallis as Vice Chairman, for 2008/2009.**

Tim spent the first 10 years of his career working on experimental radars with the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment



before becoming a member of the Radar Signature Group, working on a number of MoD research programmes. His roles have also included project life cycle management and obsolescence management for a variety of defence companies including Thales Antennas and Thales Underwater Systems. He has been a member of the COG UK Steering Committee for two years and was founder of the Customer Solutions Group.

Tim will combine his new role as Chairman with a move to CMCA UK at the beginning of June.

Nigel Wallis also has an in-depth knowledge of component issues, including the counterfeit avoidance,



RoHS / WEEE, export control, and obsolescence, gained throughout a 16-year career in aerospace and defence electronics. He has been an active member of the Component Obsolescence Group, through Active Electronics, since 2004 and is a member of the COG Steering Committee and the COG Customer Solutions Group.

# The Duxford Report: February Quarterly Meeting



Members tour the exhibits at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

## The February Quarterly Meeting was held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

The first day focused on **Software** obsolescence with presentations on Managing Software Obsolescence through Standards, by Paul Parkinson of Windriver Systems, as well as Choosing Software/Hardware Emulation by Graeme Rumney of Sellafield Ltd. Graeme also led a discussion on Archiving and Media Management.

Sponsored by Azzurri Technology and IHS, the **Mechanical** meeting began with a presentation on Current Applications & Future Availability of Cadmium Plating by John Newnham of the Confederation of British Metalworking. This was followed by a presentation on obsolescence issues affecting a variety of materials, including metals, rubber, elastomers, adhesives, paints and composites by Stephen Millington of QinetiQ. Pesheya Swift and Linda Prosper, of the Sustainable Development & Regulation Directorate, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, presented an EU Review of the WEEE and RoHS Directives, which was followed by Chris

Smith from the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, UK RoHS Enforcement Agency, outlining RoHS Enforcement in the UK.

The **Electronics** day, also sponsored by Azzurri Technology and IHS, opened with a presentation by Bob Gregory of Rolls Royce on the problems of lead-free solder and tin whiskers, and discussed the GEIA standards being produced by the LEAP Working Group in the USA.

Ian Blackman, of Selex Galileo then introduced a DVD from the Anti-Counterfeit Symposium held in November 2006 in the USA. The Sensors and Instrumentation Knowledge Transfer Network was outlined by Richard Morrison, and this was followed by presentations on Through-Life Management by Justin May of Endeca, and Building Partnerships through End-users Terms & Conditions by Michael Farmer of Metronet.

**Members can download copies of these presentations from the COG website: [www.cog.org.uk](http://www.cog.org.uk).**

# COG participates in the UKEA

**COG is actively participating in the UK Electronics Alliance (UKEA) and COG members will be presenting at the seminar programme organised by the UKEA at the NEW Exhibition at Earls Court in June 2008.**

Formed in response to the Electronics Innovation and Growth Team (EIGT) Report, published by the DTI in 2005, UKEA pulls together a diverse group of trade associations within the electronics sector. This provides a unique opportunity to co-ordinate activity on behalf of the electronics industry, as well as providing an interface with government departments for the collection of evidence for consultations.

Membership of the UKEA, allows COG to voice issues that are raised at the Quarterly Meetings so that they can influence the formulation of UKEA and ELC policy. Membership also provides valuable communication channels with Senior Executives of other trade associations and with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Affairs (BERR).

**COG Council Meeting Notes**  
Representatives of COG UK and COG Germany met on the 9th May at Autoflug GmbH, in Rellingen near Hamburg, Germany, for the COG Council Meeting. In addition to discussing co-operation between the national COG Groups, to gain EU Funding for Obsolescence Research, delegates also approved the new COG logo and agreed to issue all members with a Membership Certificate on joining COG, and at each renewal.

## COG in Italy

COG has held a number of meetings, since the last Newsletter to discuss the inauguration of a COG Group in Italy. COG Italy will be launched later this year, with Finmeccanica providing the Secretariat for the first 12 months.

# APC-Locator: A counterfeit case study

**The problem of counterfeit components has prompted APC-Locator (part of Advanced Power Components plc), to launch a Counterfeit Screening service which verifies the authenticity of components via a series of checks, followed by re-testing and re-qualifying by DSCC-recognised test houses.**

A typical example of this was when APC was approached by a leading avionics manufacturer with a requirement for a long-discontinued Macrocell EPLD device. The customer was faced with two major issues: the expense of re-designing and re-qualify the part and the timescale which was needed to turn the project around.

Previous attempts to source the product had been unsuccessful, with the customer having been supplied with counterfeit product on three previous occasions. APC-Locator met with the customer and offered to source the product via its approved network of vendors, each of which has been subjected to a comprehensive screening process before approval and certification by APC.

By mutual agreement, a document was drawn up outlining the criteria that the product would have to meet to show that it was of an acceptable quality. Over a timescale of 10 weeks, APC had sourced a batch of components, originating from an OEM in the USA, with a traceable manufacturer c of c. As outlined in the

agreement, APC obtained a digital photograph of the components from the source, and verified the batch code with the original manufacturer. With the customers' consent, the parts were sent to a DSCC-approved test house where extensive testing was conducted, including X-ray analysis to verify the authenticity of the product, sample de-lidding with microscopic inspection, X30 visual magnification test on leads for prior use, and 100% AC/DC+ functional re-test against the manufacturer's spec sheet. Finally, the product was compared to a Gold sample supplied from the customer's stock.

The tested product, with its c of c and test paperwork, was then shipped to the customer, saving an estimated cost of £1million that the customer would have incurred if the process had been carried out in-house.

#### About the Author

Paul Dale launched APC-Locator when he joined APC in 1997. Before this he held a number of roles within distribution, including with Arrow Electronics and Zeus. Paul is a long-term member of the Component Obsolescence Group (COG)

***If you have an obsolescence case-study which can be featured in the COG Newsletter email Mike Trenchard on [admin@cog.org.uk](mailto:admin@cog.org.uk) with your suggestions.***

## COG gets a face-lift

COG's image and corporate identity has been undergoing a make-over which includes an updated logo and corporate identity. The new COG logo and style has been rolled out across all aspects of COG's identity, including the exhibition stand, information folder, membership application form and web-sites.



## Spot the COG Member



From the 80's archive, this darts team includes a current COG member. Can you spot him under the flowing locks and trendy moustache? See page 4 for the answer.

***Test the COG membership with your own COG archive images. Email suitable images to Mike Trenchard at [admin@cog.org.uk](mailto:admin@cog.org.uk).***

## COG UK DIARY DATES

### 2008

**3rd June**

COG Steering Group Meeting

Worcester

**5rd June**

COG Deutschland Quarterly Meeting

Germany

**10/12th June**

CMSE Europe

Portsmouth Marriott Hotel

**17/19th June**

COG Stand at National Electronics Week

Earls Court, London

**24th June**

Joint COG & Society of Underwater Technology Seminar

Coleman Street, London

**23/24th September**

Quarterly Meeting

To be confirmed

**15th October**

COG Workshop  
Avoiding the pitfalls of counterfeit component supply

OA Centre, St Albans

### 2009

**29th June to 1st July**

COG International Conference

St. John's College, Cambridge University, UK

# Members' NEWS



## Campbell Collins announce new SSDI Hyperfast Recovery Rectifier Range

COG-member, Campbell Collins ([www.camcol.co.uk](http://www.camcol.co.uk)) announce a new range of hyperfast recovery rectifiers from SSDI. Providing an alternative source for hard-to-find military devices, the new series can serve as high-current replacements for devices such as 1N5807 to 1N5811 and possibly replace larger stud-mount devices such as 1N5812 to 1N5816. These hermetically-sealed rectifiers have a maximum recovery-time of 30 nanoseconds and are available in 50V, 100V and 150V versions. The devices are available at TX, TXV and S-Level screening, based on MIL-PRF-19500 guidelines.

Campbell Collins provides a wide range of SSDI alternatives for obsolete and hard-to-find semiconductor components, die and packages, for aerospace and defence applications.

### **Specialist Microwave Solutions supports core technologies and skills**

For component assemblies and sub-systems used in equipment which is still in service (and possibly required to stay in service for an extended time), repair is

often a viable option for obsolescence issues.

Rather than replacing a complex assembly, which can entail sourcing many parts which are potentially no longer supplied, repair can usually be undertaken using most or all of the existing key parts, and can reduce time, cost and potential re-qualification.

Within Specialist Microwave Solutions Ltd, repairs are supported by maintaining core technologies and skills that are focused on specific capabilities rather than products. This approach enables SMS Ltd to support many heritage products. For example, when SMS acquired the Microwave Source business of Nera Ltd last year, it was also able to support similar designs previously produced by companies such as G & E Bradley and Continental Microwave.

These capabilities also help towards maintaining the necessary resources to reproduce new or similar models of old hybrid technology components, when repair is not the preferred option.

### **Contribute to the COG Newsletter**

The next COG newsletter is planned for November 2008. 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 before Friday 17th October 2008.

**Contact COG** Email: [admin@cog.org.uk](mailto:admin@cog.org.uk) Web: [www.cog.org.uk](http://www.cog.org.uk) Tel: +44 (0)1582 762934  
Post: COG International Limited, PO Box 314, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 4XL, UK.

## New Member-get-Member Scheme



The Steering Group has approved a new member-get-member scheme, designed to help to increase COG membership and to reward members who actively encourage other companies to become members.

Any member who recommends another company to join COG, and whose recommendation is verified by the new company, will receive £50 worth of Marks and Spencer vouchers. The new Membership Application Form includes space to confirm the name of any member who has recommended the applicant to apply for membership of COG.

### **Did you Spot the COG Member?**

David Major (BAE Rochester) is the COG Member standing back row, left.