



November Quarterly COG Meeting

How is obsolescence managed in different industries? That is the question that the November COG Quarterly meeting on 21st and 22nd November, at Raytheon, Harlow, will focus on with its theme of 'Contrasting Approaches to Obsolescence Management'.

Day One: Mechanical Obsolescence

- Switching your attention to obsolescence - The wider implications to obsolescence of switches (*Michael White, BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies*)
- Effects of Obsolescence on a 40 year old aircraft (*Martin Robinson, Britten-Norman Aircraft*)
- Error-Tolerated Parts Selection (*Peter Hill, Partminer*)
- Airframe and Engine Analyzer – the next steps (*James Phillips, ILS*)

Day Two: Electronics Obsolescence

Theme: Contrasting Approaches to Obsolescence Management

- Why Obsolescence Management is important in the Offshore Oil Industry (*David Saul, BP*)
- Obsolescence Management in the Nuclear Industry (*Graeme Rumney, BNG*)
- Obsolescence Management in the Office Products Industry (*Rik Kucharski, Xerox*)
- Sustainable Supportability for a Multi-platform, Multi-Customer, Aviation Business (*Andrew Morley, BAE Systems, Regional Aircraft*)
- The Future of UK Semiconductors (*Derek Boyd, CEO, National Microelectronics Institute*)
- Technology Road Map (*Alun Jones, Austin Semiconductor Europe & Ken Ball, Chip Supply*)

Discussion Group: Is New Semiconductor Technology an insurmountable problem for long term support?

Early booking is advisable, contact Chris or Sue on +44 (0)1582 762934 or email admin@cog.org.uk for details.

Call for Papers: COG International Conference 2007



Preparations are under way for the COG International Conference 2007, to be held at St John's College Cambridge, on 10-12th July. COG members are invited to submit papers on a range of topics connected with obsolescence including specific issues affecting Electronic, Mechanical and Software Obsolescence as well as the overall Management of obsolescence including the impact of legislation, cost metrics, and wider market issues such as counterfeiting and the grey market.

Full details of how to submit papers, together with information on different sponsorship opportunities and exhibition details for the COG International Conference, are available on the COG website.



St John's College, Cambridge is the stunning setting for the COG International Conference 2007.

THE VIEW FROM HERE: COG Chairman, David Young



David Young COG Chairman.

As thoughts turn towards Christmas and the New Year, I would just like to look back over the past 12 months at the achievements and changes that have occurred within COG. The organisation has now fully transitioned into a modern forward looking legal entity. COG International is now a company limited by guarantee, complete with a board of

directors (Charles Battersby, Martin Holmes and Teri-Ann Winslow) and a chief Executive (Mike Trenchard).

COG Germany has been formally formed and is growing rapidly, with around 38 members from a variety of industries, including a good number from the automotive sector. COG Germany is organised in a similar manner to the UK with a steering committee and working groups. It has well-attended quarterly meetings which are open to UK members - some have already attended.

As for COG UK, of which I am Chairman, we are continuing to grow. In the last year we have formed a Customer Solutions Working Group and a Software Working Group. Quarterly meetings have been very well attended with over 150 delegates to our last one in Abbey Wood. We have held 2 supplier roadshows, one at Thales and one alongside the Abbey Wood quarterly meeting.

I think I can say that COG is a proactive and expanding organisation. We hope to continue to expand in the UK especially into the automotive, rail, medical and power sectors. We are actively seeking opportunities, using the COG Germany model, to form COG organisations in other European countries and possibly beyond.

We are also looking forward to the COG International Conference at Cambridge University on 10-12 July next year. This we confidently predict will be the largest and most successful conference so far. Those wanting to present, remember the deadline to submit your abstracts is 31 Jan 07.

Finally I would like to thank all those members who are active in the various working groups. We have many people who put a considerable amount of effort and energy into these groups with little recognition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all.

COG Workshop Programme 2007

Workshops are a useful way to share experiences and expertise with fellow COG members. The following workshops are scheduled for COG UK with full details available for each workshop on www.cog.org.uk. Previous COG workshops are also available on CD.

18 Jan	Avoiding the Pitfalls of Counterfeit Component Supply	OA Centre, St. Albans
21 Mar	Storage: Hazards & Solutions	OA Centre, St Albans
10 July	Comparison of Component Monitoring Tools	OA Centre, St. Albans
17 Oct	Developing an Obsolescence Strategy	Lansdowne Place Hotel, Hove

DIARY DATES

21/22 Nov 2006

Quarterly meeting Raytheon Harlow

6/7 Feb 2007

Quarterly meeting Rolls Royce Derby

10/12 July 2007

COG International Conference 2007
St John's College
Cambridge

September Quarterly COG Meeting



Held at the MOD, Abbey Wood, the September Quarterly COG Meeting was attended by over 150 delegates including directors of COG UK and the Steering Group and the hard-working admin team as well as COG members and quite a few spouses.

The meeting was also the first to host the COG Road Show, with supplier members showcasing their products and services in their own promotional space, giving delegates the opportunity a point of reference for many of the presentations.

Dinner in the evening was a chance for some serious networking, with delegates discussing obsolescent issues into the small hours and many showing real passion in helping others to solve obsolescence problems.



Copies of the following presentations given during the Quarterly Meeting are available now on the Members' Pages of the COG website www.cog.org/ **events/minutes of meetings:**

Mechanical presentations:

The Trouble with Cotton *David Coyle (OCCAR)*

History of Point Machines *Colin Burton (Westinghouse Rail)*

Corrosion Case Study *Jim Lawton (Hitek Electronic Materials)*

Could a Standard Method of Defining Mechanical and Process Parts Support Obsolescence Management?
Philip East (IHS)

Electronics presentations:

The SKIOS Experience *David Lynch (Selex S & AS)*

What is an Obsolescence Management Tool and How Does it Work? *Jeremy Franks (QinetiQ)*

Managing Obsolescence Risks *Emmanuel Ofosu-Apeasah (Salvage & Mooring IPT, MoD)*

Defence Obsolescence Centre *Stuart Kelly (MoD TES)*

Counterfeit Components *Nigel Wallis (Active Electronics)*

Were we ready for ROHS? *Alan Baker (Winslow Adaptics)*

There are also reports from the following COG groups on the COG website Members' Pages: Steering, Web Site, Conference, Customer Solutions, External Liaison, Software and Workshop Groups.

COG Council Meeting Report

The second COG Council Meeting was held at the Royal Cambridge Hotel in Cambridge on 26/27 October 2006. The UK and German Steering Group members had a tour of St. John's College, Cambridge University where the COG International Conference is being held on 10-12 July 2007. The German members are fully supporting the Conference and it is hoped that there will be a number of speakers from Germany and other countries in Europe as well as from the United States.

The Council decided to try to recruit members in Italy and France with a view to launching COG Groups in those countries in due course. Further booklets in the Minefield series are in the process of translation so they can be

published in German. The possibility of a joint booklet on management strategy was discussed.

The UK and German Groups reported on their activity in the last 6 months and provided input on future events. COG Deutschland now has 38 member companies. It was agreed that both German and UK events would be included on www.cog.org.uk and that every effort would be used to avoid any clash of dates for events.



Software Obsolescence

By Graeme Rumney (British Nuclear Group Ltd) and Lloyd Francis (IGG Component Technology Ltd)

Software impacts on almost every aspect of our lives, from MP3 players or personal computers through to microwaves and washing machines. In manufacturing, software-based systems provide control of production plants and processes, and it is also behind the sales and financial systems. Cars use software extensively in everything from engine management systems to the heating and ventilation controls. In the aerospace industry it is software that is keeping the state-of-the-art airliner or fighter jet in the air.

So, can software become obsolete, and if so how can we avoid the consequences if it does?

Software ultimately ends up as set of binary instructions and data, which is used by a microprocessor to perform some defined function. Before it reaches the microprocessor it is created and stored on media, such as hard disks, floppy disks, CDs, tape or an EEPROM for instance. In the conventional sense, software cannot go obsolete in the same way that a component goes out of production, as software can be simply copied. However, in reality, the obsolescence mechanism for software is much more subtle and has the potential to leave your application unsupported, and could stop your business or project or programme in its tracks. During the development of a software application there is an underlying infrastructure in place which includes:

1. Source code
2. Requirement
3. Specifications
4. Design documentation
5. Data
6. Compilers

7. Operating systems
8. Hardware platforms
9. Storage media
10. Third party vendors
11. Engineers skilled in the particular programming language.

At the end of the development of the software application, any one of these eleven entities may not be retained by the responsible organisation and as soon as this happens, the software has already begun to develop potential obsolescence. Simply storing media with the software on it is not enough! Consideration should be given to retaining the entire underlying infrastructure, should the software require modification and re-implementation at any given point in the future. For example, try opening a user requirements specification which was written fifteen years ago on a DOS-based word processing application with your current PC – the chances are that even if it does open, it will be almost unintelligible due to the embedded formatting characters associated with the now obsolete word processing application. It could be argued that keeping a copy of the word processor application as well as the document would mitigate this risk, but will the word processor application run on a modern operating system? Probably not! Take this a stage further to the custom software which has been developed for an application, which now requires a modification after a bug has been revealed. Does the necessary infrastructure to modify the software and, importantly, engineers competent in the obsolete software language still exist?

The full text of this technical article is available on www.cog.org.uk

Members' NEWS

Rochester Electronics held the industry's first anti-counterfeit symposium. The invitation-only event took place on October 25th at Rochester Electronics' new state of the art facility in Newburyport, MA. www.rocelec.com

New faces at Partminer. Mort Topfer has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of PartMiner, Inc. His career has spanned over thirty years and has included co-founding Castletop Capital as well as working for Dell Computer Corp., and Motorola. **Paul Magin**, original designer and architect of the CAPSTM database application, joins PartMiner Information Services, Inc. (PMIS) as Senior Vice President of Content Development and Support. www.partminer.com

Partminer has launched CAPSTM Connect ESTM, a web-based component data management system, updated in real-time, which allows users to validate, cleanse, analyse, report and monitor component data at the bill of materials level. Applications include managing RoHS compliance, and obsolescence issues and reducing aggregate spend on parts. www.partminer.com

QP Semiconductor Inc., now have over 3000 parts fully certified & qualified with DSCC to Mil Drawing & SMD. This represents over 12% of the overall Certifications for monolithic ICs from DSCC. A full QML-certified manufacturer of semiconductors to Level B & Level V Space, QP Semiconductor Inc.'s extensive programme of IC development, mostly based on original designs, helps customers to support Legacy Equipments in the field or still in production. www.qpsemi.com

Contribute to the COG Newsletter

The next COG newsletter is planned for March/April 2007. 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 with NEWSLETTER as the subject before Friday 6th March 07.