



The Test Connection, Inc.

GETTING TO THE POINT

Message From The President

The year 2001 was most interesting for The Test Connection, Inc. With a downturn in the electronic industry, many of the communication companies are having a hard time staying afloat, whereas The Test Connection managed to push ahead and have an increase in sales while still showing a profit.

While the spring and early summer of 2001 showed a slowdown in bookings, August showed a noticeable increase that has continued upward. This trend will give The Test Connection another banner year, targeting a 50% growth rate for the year 2002.

From a technical point, The Test Connection has made many great advances during the year as technology continued to diversify. Not only did we expand one of our Agilent testers to fit 5200 pins, we increased the network connectivity be-



tween offices and thus increasing our capabilities for remote access on the Internet. We added many different pieces of software that allows us to better control our test program development. TTC expects to start giving automatic reports on test program status over the Internet very soon. Earlier last year our intricate network demanded the attention of a dedicated specialist who now spends over 50% of his time maintaining and expanding the network.

In addition to the Network Specialist, The Test Connection has added several new key people (see other articles) to continue increasing our technical staff, potential growth and expert capabilities. This increase in expertise allows us to develop quality test programs for Agilent and Teradyne/GenRad. TTC has been in business for over 22 years making us the oldest test program engineering house in the world and a leader in board test technology.

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Folsom's Fast Fact

For testing a high pin count boundary-scan device on a tester without a high number of independent channels use the Agilent Connect Max feature.

Normally the multiplexing ratio of independent channels to tester pins is 1 to 9 for bi-directional signals, or 2 to 9 with the new Hybrid32 pin cards that are in TTC's tester. This means a 484 pin boundary-scan IC with 400 bi-directional pins on an 800 node board, normally requires a tester with 3600+ pins in order to have sufficient independent channels.

But with Agilent Advanced Boundary-Scan and Connect Max, the same board could fit on a single module tester with only 1296 or fewer pins.

In "board consultant", with the "device entry form" of the large boundary-scan device open, select from the option menu "show scan library test options" Enable the 1149_1 "Testability Standard", select the BSDL part number and the Device Package Type. Enter a number between 1 and 999 in the Connect Max field to limit the maximum number of nodes to test in any one connect test.

For our sample board, a Connect Max value of 50 into 8 separate tests that won't overflow the small tester configuration.

Important: for this to work, "Library Test Expected" must be set to "No"

A New Face At TTC



Jerry Barnes

The Test Connection added Jerry Barnes to our staff in New Hampshire. Jerry will be the lead test engineer with the group and had over 6 years previous experience with Lucent, programming on the 3070 Agilent testers. He also had 17 years experience at AT&T working on GenRad test systems as an In-Circuit Programmer. Jerry has a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Arkansas and we welcome him aboard.

TTC's New Hampshire Office



Microsoft® **ACCESS 2000** **Training**

Microsoft Office Application

Most of the staff and programmers at the Maryland facility recently took a course on Microsoft Access at the New Horizon Training Center. This training will permit us to expand and convert our database to Access providing compatible connectivity with Microsoft Office and Wind2 FMS. Changing to Access will allow us to update our test program logs and send out reports in an orderly fashion. The Test Connection has been using a Test Program Log for the last 15 years. We also will be adding some other features and software that will make it possible to better support our customer base.

APEX 2002



The APEX Show, which was held in San Diego, CA, this year was a big success. There were over 800 vendors and the show was sold out. Teradyne/GenRad and Agilent Technologies had a strong presence at the show. Teradyne presented new GenRad options under the Teradyne name. Agilent Technologies demonstrated their new NT-PC based 3070 test system and emphasized their integration of ASSET InterTech's ScanWorks boundary-scan test into Agilent 3070 ICT systems. This new integration will be a beneficial tool for The Test Connection.

GenRad Technical Training

Last summer, The Test Connection held a training session at our facility in Reisterstown, Maryland focusing on programming large devices and advanced programming techniques. Jim Marek from GenRad spent over a week at The Test Connection, Inc administering the training. Most of the staff, and Agilent and GenRad programmers attended this course. The course was very beneficial in educating our staff with some of the latest technology, supporting some of the newer versions of software that have been introduced by GenRad.

