



The Test Connection, Inc.

GETTING TO THE POINT

ASSET InterTech Boundary Scan Arrives at TTCI

The Test Connection is happy to announce it has signed an agreement with ASSET InterTech as a Partner Provider to develop boundary-scan test programs using the ASSET® ScanWorks™ Test Development Station for PC-based boundary-scan programming. TTCI will be able to develop test programs from a PC unit and later add them to the Agilent Technologies 3070 in-circuit test ICT programs. Test programs can be developed with a stand-alone unit, ScanWorks TDS or in the Agilent Technologies 3070 systems. This will allow OEMs to test their early boards using ASSET® ScanWorks™ then when production starts, incorporate the boundary-scan program into the in-circuit test program, run production and also be able to use the stand-alone units to test field returns. This combination testing of the boards should greatly enhance the test program's fault coverage while giving the OEMs and CMs many more options. Two key items to developing these test programs are to have a good test strategy and testability of the boards must be in place. TTCI will not only be providing and developing test programs for ASSET InterTech and Agilent Technologies, but we have the tools in place to provide testability reviews to make the most efficient test programs for finding faults at a lower cost. Boundary-Scan chips have been appearing in boards for some time, but in the last eighteen months their presence has greatly increased and is continuing to increase in most design types. Thus, The Test Connection feels adding this new tool places us on the cutting-edge of the latest technological improvements in testing printed circuit boards.



ASSET InterTech test programs will be developed at The Test Connection's main facility in Maryland and in the New Hampshire office. Bill Horner, of The Test Connection stated that TTCI is now in a position to provide test programs for the in-circuit and boundary-scan stand-alone test as we now have the tools to improve quality at reduced cost. This will allow us to use boundary-scan chains in printed circuit boards where nodal access could be limited. Bill also stated that it is extremely important to have the right strategy and testability built into the board to maximum efficiency. With the use of ASSET, EDFT strategies and techniques the cost of building the boards will reduce, as testing for fault coverage is increased..... continued on page 2

Volume 1, Issue 3

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Inside this issue:

Test Program Tracking	2
Now Accepting Credit Cards	2
Folsom's Fast Facts	2
International Test Conference	2



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The Test Connection is now in its twenty-third year of generating quality test programs for functional and in-circuit testers. TTCI supports the Agilent 3070 test systems and is a Channel Partner with Agilent Technologies. The Test Connection also supports the Teradyne/GenRad TestStations and 228X series systems and also supports the Teradyne/GenRad Pilot (flying-probe) tester. TTCI is the oldest test engineering company in the country that supports all these platforms.



Come Visit The Test Connection, Inc. at The International Test Conference (ITC) 2002 held in Baltimore, MD from October 8-10. We will be in booth 1711 with ASSET InterTech as their Partner Provider.



We Now Accept Credit Cards



The Test Connection, Inc. is now accepting Master Card and Visa transactions. What better way to implement the Business Paper Reduction Act and shorten or eliminate the requisition cycle for low-dollar items and services? Credit card transactions are an excellent way to purchase Testability Reviews or used GenRad parts or if desired, a complete test set could be purchased using this same method.

Folsom's Fast Facts

The typical Motorola S-Record is in a microprocessor friendly format. While this works fine for in-system programming of the FLASH through the microprocessor, it is wrong for in-circuit or boundary-scan programming of the FLASH. The problem is known as byte swapping.

The low byte of each data word is swapped with the high byte. If the designer cannot supply the S-Record in non-microprocessor format, a column editor can be used to fix the file.



Test Program Tracking

TTCI has been maintaining a database for tracking test programs in progress for the past ten years or more. However, recently we have migrated this database into Microsoft Access making the data more accessible between multiple software packages. Using Access provides us with the ability to email project specific reports to the customer and eventually provide the customer a secure means to view their project progression via the Internet. This database is maintained on a daily basis and reports can be modified on the fly and emailed to provide the customer with the project status they need for their meetings. The Open-Database-Connectivity (ODBC) feature of Access provides a common tool for sharing data between our Financial Management Software and MS Project improving our efficiency and enhancing our productivity.

We take pride in implementing new tools and technology to provide Quality and State-of-the-Art Test Engineering Services to our customers.