Indian Manufacturers obtain UL RoHS Mark to demonstrate RoHS compliance

Sample of UL RoHS Product Mark

Eight companies in India successfully obtained the UL RoHS mark to demonstrate compliance with the European Union's Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive, which took effect July 1, 2006.

Persang Alloy Industries, a renowned solder manufacturer in India, was delighted to become the first solder manufacturer in Asia that has demonstrated compliance with the UL RoHS Product Certification program. They are proud to display the UL RoHS Product Mark to their customers at the ELCOMP India 2006 exhibition in September. The mark was proven to be a useful marketing tool for Persang as numerous enquiries and leads had been generated in the exhibition. In view of the positive response, Persang's Taiwanese partner was also considering to obtain the UL RoHS mark.

UL also registers organizations complying with the standards established by the International Electrotechnical Commission Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components (IECQ QC 080000 HSPM) and awards the UL RoHS system mark to them.

Aadil Baavadam, Vice President, Persang Alloy Industries (left) and R A Venkatachalam, General Manager, UL Emerging Markets.

On Research and Development

The PCB industry is made up of numerous small-to-medium-sized enterprises. Research and development capabilities and investments are limited and not centralized.

In 2005, with funding support from the Taiwan government, UL set up a Material Environmental Technology Center, the first of its kind outside the U.S. The center works on standards research in relation to environmental-friendly PWB and renewable energy.

The center is now working on research projects including:

- Decomposition Temperature testing method for industrial laminate
- Silver-migration substitute testing program
- Flammability of conductive paste on flexible materials
- Effect of solder mask on CTI ratings of finished boards
- Simulation and comparison of industry assembling processes and UL's thermal shock test processes
- Thin-material thickness measurement method and acceptance level

Environmental challenges

Participants also discussed concerns over environmental restrictions. Mainland China has proposed to the WTO a law — Administration on the Control of Pollution Caused by Electronic Information Products — an equivalent to the European Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS). Unlike RoHS, the proposed law will require the names and contents of toxic and harmful substances and recovery marks need to be clearly indicated on the products.

In reaction to frequent blames for being the source of industrial pollution, the PCB industry has made tremendous contribution to the development and promotion of recycling and environment-conserving technologies. For example, the CPCA has launched a project on the reuse of waste water. With the increasing adoption of green technologies, it is hoped that the PCB industry can work toward a reputation for environmental friendliness.