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Quality Is Our Priority

We are delighted that Speedboard was certified to the new ISO 9001:2015 standard in May. An independent assessment was conducted by the leading certification body, the British Standards Institution and the auditor's report flagged no non-conformity issues and described Speedboard's quality management system as 'outstanding'.

This certification to ISO:9001:2015 confirms our ongoing – and company wide – commitment to ensuring that quality underpins everything we do.

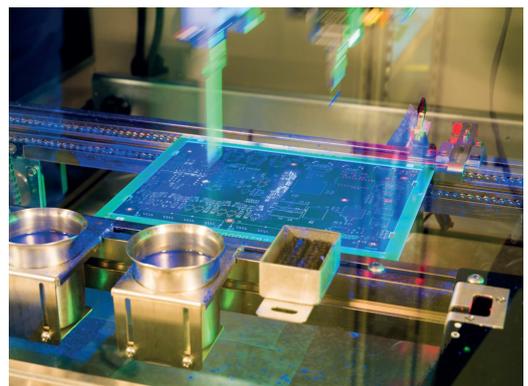


Continued Investment To Support Growing Business

Speedboard has invested over £100,000 in a new automated conformal coating line.

The new automated process line will increase speed and accuracy of PCBA conformal coating at Speedboard, producing higher quality assemblies with a superior consistent coating, more efficiently. The line is simple to use and the automated, modular design allows options to be added as application needs change.

The major benefits of the automated spray line are that it reduces coating time, with little or no masking required and it is cured in seconds through the integrated UV oven, giving higher resistance against moisture, condensation, external contaminants and corrosion. In addition, deploying an automated spray process ensures repeatable results are delivered that comply to IPC standards.



Martin Bullimore, Speedboard's Operations Director comments: "We are delighted to make this investment into our shop floor process equipment. This demonstrates to potential and existing customers our commitment and capability to invest to deliver a quality on-time service. To give an example, we will now be able to coat, cure and deliver on the same day, enabling us to satisfy our customers' requirements and offering reduced lead time for New Product Introduction."

Focus On Quality

We have pleasure in welcoming Benjamin Thorpe to the Speedboard team.

Benjamin joins as Quality Manager, with more than 10 years formal experience within a quality-related role in the electronics manufacturing industry. He's worked in the aerospace, defence and education sectors, as well as five years' service within the British Armed Forces.

Benjamin, who admits he isn't a morning person, often enjoys sitting in a café with a book enjoying a cup of tea, followed by a meal at Nando's or Wagamama's.



Entirely enthusiastic about learning and personal growth, dedicated to the possibilities of honesty, authenticity, knowledge and peace of mind for both himself and others; Benjamin is married, and guardian to his wife's two children.

He's an active volunteer within a variety of faith-based communities and has lived in Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe and Indonesia. He appreciates the times when people from a mixture of cultures, speaking a variety of languages, and whom hold a vast array of beliefs, are able to come together and share in mutual-understanding and knowledge.

As Quality Manager, Benjamin will be responsible for leading Speedboard's efforts in driving a culture of quality; maintaining quality standards and approvals; and providing quality support to all departments to achieve their goals.

The Future Of British Manufacturing Industry 4.0 & Smart Factory

Speedboard supports The Future of British Manufacturing Initiative which is a collaboration between leading UK industry organisations, focused on increasing the competitive advantage of UK Design and Manufacturing by removing the barriers to true productivity and innovation.



Happy Workplace

It's safe to say that outside of our families and loved ones, the people we work with make up the vast majority of human interactions we have on a daily basis.

At Speedboard we view employee retention as critical to the long-term success of our business, ensuring customer satisfaction, increased product knowledge, satisfied co-workers and knowledge sharing.

We have 28 employees who have worked here for over 10 years and 50 employees with over 5 years' service. Our longest serving member of staff is Jaswinder Sandhu (picture below) who celebrated 29 years with us on 24th October.



We're a friendly team at Speedboard, where everybody is valued. We encourage employees to recommend friends and family to apply for job vacancies - it makes sense to work with those we like and trust and who have a vested interest in the company. We have three members of the Garland family, Sue is our Administrator, her husband John looks after all our maintenance on site and their son Sam is part of our Engineering team.



Karen Heath, our Supply Chain Director, is joined by her dad, Gwynne Jones, who works part time as our delivery driver. Gwynne was the Queen's Sous Chef at Windsor Castle for thirty years, it's a shame we don't have a kitchen on site!

Jo Seymour, our Customer/NPI Manager, previously worked with Sophie Duwensee, who joined as Account Manager earlier this year, bringing several years of experience in the electronics sector.

We also have Mohammad Sharif in our Purchasing team who is married to Meena, a member of our Stores team.

Increasing Lead Times

In Q4 2016 we started seeing an increase in lead times for electronics components, this has continued into 2017. This is the result of ongoing capacity concerns, recent high profile mergers and a very steep curve in demand.

There is no real reason why lead times are moving out – some people are pointing the finger at the mobile phone industry (again) with Apple launching its new iPhone back in September, bringing a spike in the demand for electronic components. When a large OEM like Apple plan a new product launch, then it inevitably impacts the supply chain for everyone else.

Globally, manufacturing (therefore electronic components) has been increasing month on month through 2017 with electric cars building more than they originally forecast. Another major driver is the IOT (Internet of Things). With automated homes, factories, schools and maybe complete cities becoming a reality, this will fuel the level of electronic component requirements to a new high and this demand in turn will push out lead times.



Speedboard encourage our customers and OEMs to review their requirements to accommodate these increasing lead times. If you have orders to place, please place them early, enabling us to secure components for your build. If you are in design stages for a project, then please include us in your discussions so that we can look at purchasing long lead time items in preparation for the final release of your product data.

Speedboard offers many options to combat long lead times, such as buffering stock at the supplier or here on site; consignment stocks which are held at lineside and a Kanban system that “breathes” in and out in line with your demands, so please talk to us about your requirements.

Riddle

One to groan at ...

What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

Answer on back page

Dancing The Night Away

Speedboard hosted its staff party in October, at the Copthorne Hotel where guests enjoyed entertainment, a meal and drinks.

The magician mingled and had people baffled by his tricks. The disco encouraged people on to the dance floor, and it was a refreshing change from conventional disco DJs. They made sure there was something for everyone. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and having such fun dancing.

There were several quizzes for people on each table to complete in teams during the evening, some questions harder than others. This was followed by a raffle with some great prizes – well done to the holders of the winning tickets.

Thanks to everybody who attended and made it a great evening. We hope you enjoy the photos!



Bra-Vo For Paula's Moonwalk Charity Walk

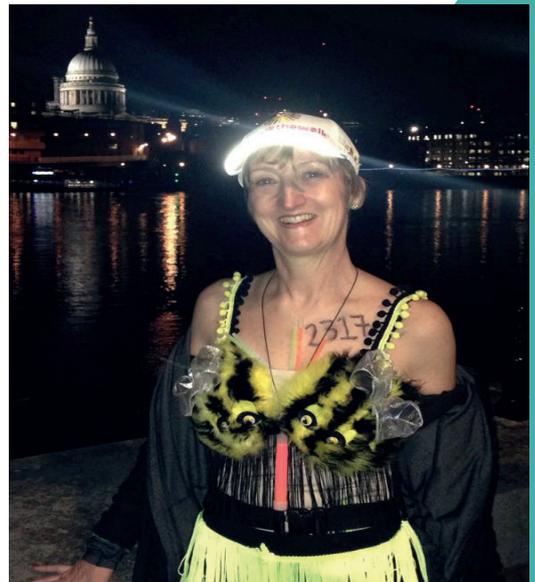
On Saturday 13th May, while most of us were sleeping, Speedboard's Finance Manager, Paula Higgs and eight friends, power walked 15 miles, past some of London's most famous landmarks to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research.

Setting off at around midnight from Clapham Common, Paula entered into the party spirit of Walk the Walk's Moonwalk fundraising event, which celebrated its 20th year this year, wearing her bra decorated as a bee in the spirit of the Team name The 3 B's.

Paula shares her story with us: *As I celebrate the big 50 this year, I realised that I have not done a sponsored event of any kind since I was at school. I did the walk wearing my bra, in support of Walk the Walk, a fantastic breast cancer charity that supports both research and those that have cancer now.*

This is a charity close to my heart as I have already seen four friends (all under the age of 50) diagnosed with breast cancer and undergo various treatments from surgery, chemo and radiotherapy. They also received amazing care and support, none of which would be possible without more research and donations from charities like this.

Paula raised an amazing £957.66 which helped achieve a team total of £5636.29 in sponsorship for Walk the Walk. Congratulations to Paula on this fantastic achievement, from all the team at Speedboard.

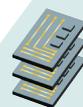


Kicking Off The New Season With Winnersh Rangers Football Team

Speedboard are proud to be sponsoring Winnersh Rangers Football Club Aztecs U9s team for another two years. This sponsorship has paid for new kits for the team, with the players proudly carrying Speedboard's logo on their shirts.

Neil Campbell, Speedboard's Production Engineer and also Manager of Winnersh Rangers Aztecs U9s and Club Treasurer, comments: "On behalf of the club, I would like to say thank you to Speedboard. The generosity of our team sponsors enables the club to provide all the kit, equipment and training facilities for the boys and helps to keep the subscription cost down making it affordable for everyone to participate."

Neil Owen, Speedboard's Managing Director, said: "We're delighted to make this donation and support the team. We are pleased to support good causes in the communities where we and our team live and work. Good luck to the team this season."



Speedboard[®]
Assembly Services

Speedboard
Assembly Services
1A Alma Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 3HU

☎ 01753 746700
🌐 speedboard.co.uk

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Riddle answer: The letter 'M'.