

Press release

Capacity is expanded as the firm marks its 30th anniversary

PPC Electronic AG, one of Europe's leading PCB manufacturers, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and a new manufacturing building will also be inaugurated to coincide with the official celebrations. These are good reasons for a public review of the company's performance, especially as the year 2000 saw another noteworthy success: with a total of 450 employees and a production area of 5000 square meters, the firm achieved sales of 112 million CHF, breaking through the 100-million sales barrier for the first time with growth of 38% against the previous year.

Since its earliest years, PPC Electronic AG has specialised in the manufacture of highly complex multilayer boards. The firm's dynamic and experienced workforce is fully able to meet today's requirements, using ultra-modern technology to produce 100% multilayer circuits with as many as 48 layers at present. An annual average of a 20-layer board is manufactured by the Cham production facility, a performance which is certainly unique anywhere in the world. The company has consistently implemented its strategy over recent years, securing it an outstanding position of technological leadership - especially in the backplane business - and it has earned a worldwide reputation in associated industrial circles. 1999 saw the start of series manufacture for one of the world's largest backplanes, with a length of 1.3 m. As a high-tech producer, the company aims for continuous improvement of an image with the twin keynotes of expertise and reliability. Tremendous resources are made available so as to meet the ever more complex requirements which the future will bring.

An example: after a construction period of 14 months, a new manufacturing building has just been officially inaugurated. A total of 40 million CHF was invested in buildings and plant to expand production. The new 4-storey structure covers an area of 9000m² in addition to the present manufacturing building, which means that today's production area is being doubled. New office accommodation has also been provided for some areas of the administration and the management.

The investment package included items such as:

- various special machines for large-format PCB's
 - automatic through-plating machine
 - automatic machine to build up conductive patterns
- Both of these automatic machines have a capacity of 400 m² of complex PCB's per day.
- direct laser exposure
 - supply and disposal plant in line with the latest technology and state-of-the-art



In collaboration with the major OEM's in the telecommunications sector, the firm has launched a whole series of new developments onto the market in recent years - key areas include high-speed technology, heat management, HDI PCB's, power electronics and high-frequency applications; intensive cooperation within the company's own interdisciplinary team of engineers has played a not inconsiderable part here. Latest activities focus on the transport and processing of large data volumes - transmission speeds in the terabit range can be expected in the future. More and more often, conventional electrical methods are running up against physical limits: optical transmission technology has far greater potential in this area.

PPC Electronic is now working on "OPTOBOARD®" - the name for PCB's with integrated optical layers based on thin glass. As well as its own ventures, the firm is also involved in several national and international development projects in this field.

98% of the company's products are exported abroad, mainly to the EU region. Most of PPC Electronic AG's clients are located in sectors such as telecommunications, measurement and control technology, aerospace, and medical / data technology.

A high level of quality is one of the hallmarks of this manufacturer's PCB production. Following ISO 9001 (in 1993), the environmental management system to ISO 14001 was introduced in 1999. In this way, PPC Electronic AG aims to meet its own responsibilities towards the environment on a more targeted and systematic basis, while continuing to raise its employees' environmental awareness.

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