

Press Release

New Excellon Dual Quad drilling machine

Excellon Automation and **PPC Electronic AG** announce the **initial installation** of the **new Excellon Dual Quad drilling machine**. The first machine was installed in January, with a second to be installed in early April. These machines represent Excellon's initial deployment of multiple spindles per station technology.

In making the announcement, PPC's CEO and Member of the Board, Giorgio Dognini, stated, "Once again PPC and Excellon have partnered in leading edge technology. The dual Quad installation represents major improvements in cost per hole for our operation."

Dual Quad is the first of a series of multiple spindles per station machines targeted at meeting the needs of the Leading Edge Technology PCB Fabricator. Multiple spindle per station work is most efficient where board fabrication has a large percentage of "step and repeat" through hole drilling. The new Excellon Optimizer supports Dual Quad, assuring optimal drilling program efficiency.

After an increase in turnover of 40 % to 75 Mio \$ in the year 2000, PPC expects an additional increase of approx. 20 % to 85 Mio \$ this year. In the last 12 months 25 Mio. \$ have been invested into a new building in order to double the production capacity as well as into new production plants. These investments underline the leading position in the production of large high layer backplanes and complex system boards.

Excellon Automation Company is a subsidiary of Esterline Technologies (ESL:NYSE). Excellon is the world's leader in via formation solutions, featuring a complete product spectrum from mechanical drilling and routing to laser via formation systems.

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