



Letters

Changing Outsourcing Rules

Regarding “What Electronics Will Remain in North America” [Market Watch, April 2004, p. 12] I agree. But I think somewhere down the line you just might have to look at the political results.

This looks like a situation where our children will pay dearly for what we are doing today. The U.S. infrastructure will be pretty much out of cash if we continue this course. And who will end up with the cash? The rules have changed, and you might find that we have to change some of the rules in our country to survive. We will figure a way to get along without the businesses that leave; the free meals are over.

*Charles Percival
Kulicke & Soffa*

To Borrow a Phrase

The phrase “on a fast crawl toward recovery” in your April editorial [“The Show Must Go On,” p. 7] is the best I have heard to express the current progress of the overall U.S. recovery. Remember, this praise comes from a certified Ph.D. economist. I may quote you in many conversations and sound wiser thereby.

*George A. Riley, Ph.D.
FlipChips.com*

The Burnout Backdraft

Your May column “Burnout” [Editorial, p. 5] was very good. Our contract manufacturer is on the upswing. They laid off a portion of their workforce about two years ago, but are scrambling for people now. They are working two shifts and occasionally a third. Things look to be picking up in Utah.

*Thomi L. Barker
Larson Davis Inc.*

Good to be Green

“Get Ahead of Environmental Compliance [June 2004, p. 36] triggered several ideas for design for recycling and [to] take redesign opportunities to reduce cost and part count. Well done.

*Paul Hart
Carrier Inc.*

Who’s Pushing Lead Free?

Regarding the clever “Five Stages of Lead-Free” column [August 2004, p. 18], I agree about the need to come to terms with reality, although not with the concluding thought about the electronics industry being stronger for the effort of going lead-free. The only benefit I can imagine for the RoHS legislation would be a monumental backlash against the perpetrators.

But there is another reality that needs to be faced, or nonsense like this is going to continue. That’s the reality of dogmatic environmental activists taking over the reigns of government and pushing their agenda on the rest of us, without so much as an environmental impact statement.

Gordon Davy

Phil Zarrow responds:

I am far from convinced that the lead-free movement is anything in the way of environmentally advantageous. Sadly, though, it is becoming a fact for anyone who sells product in the EU. The bottom line is that no one behind it seems to give a you-know-what that it is likely to be worse for the environment.

My remark about “being better for it” was a bit facetious; pain and suffering sometimes build character. But, as I said, I cannot see where we will be better off with this so-called environmentally correct direction.

Beyond the legislative and political aspects, lead-free has become quite a medicine show. As you likely noticed in my June column [“The Truth Shall Make You Lead Free,” p.14], I have a particular problem with those who lie about processes and properties in order to promote their patented solutions. So the circus goes on.

Send mail and thoughts to Editor, Circuits Assembly, email: mbuetow@upmediagroup.com. Letters must include the writer’s name, address and company affiliation and may be edited for length and clarity.