

The UK and the EIPC Winter Conference

The visits went well with the conversation centered on technology, and what we thought might be needed in the future. It's always nice to visit with customers who have a positive outlook on the future.

The winter conference is a two day event with a scheduled tour followed by dinner with all of the delegates who could attend. The conference was very well attended this year with approximately 90 visitors which is a 20%+ increase over last year. If you are not yet a member of this organization you should consider joining; you can find them at EIPC.org. The conference usually begins with a state of the industry address followed by economic news and trends. There were 15-20 short presentations given centered around new test methods, new equipment and my personal favorite, new and upcoming technologies!

I had the pleasure of presenting the history of solder mask and its application methods over the years dating back to the 1980s. The presentation winded down with the introduction to our industry of DI exposing units and concluded with the Holy Grail. That's right, you guessed it; INKJET solder mask! As you've probably read in the newsletter before, Inkjet solder mask is not far off. And the best part, this presentation finished with a short **video of solder mask being applied via Inkjet**. You'd better get ready!

The tour at Airbus was really interesting and the amount of information given was more than one could remember. Sorry I didn't include photos, but taking pictures is not allowed inside the facility. This is the site where they build the Eurofighter which we were able to see at various points of assembly. One piece of trivia that I thought was curious; our tour guide asked us if we could name the four entities that owned the most airplanes. The answer (in no certain order) is the US Army, US Navy, US Air Force and US Marines. In total the US military owns over 13,000 airplanes.