

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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report

Strategically Cooperation: Germany's KOENEN & Japan's TOPRO

Tokyo Process Service Co., Ltd (TOPRO), Japan, and KOENEN GmbH, Germany, initiated a strategically cooperation to strengthen the competition position. The cooperation of both companies started on April 1st, 2003 and extends to technology transfer and sale activities in Europe. The beginning of collaboration will be the technology transfer of manufacturing of combination screens for technical screen printing in Ottobrunn.

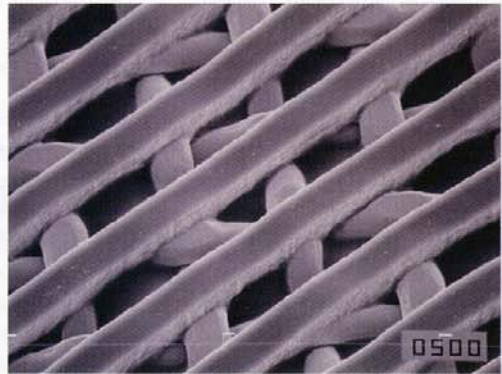
The ranges of application of the "high precision fine line" screens include technological fields like LTCC, MLCC, PDP (Plasma Display Panel), fine line thick film circuits, solar cells, electronic devices, and wafer bumping. The cooperation implies that KOENEN brings the whole ar-

ray of TOPRO products to the European market. Both companies see advantages by closeness to the customer based on the area-wide organisation of KOENEN in Europe. Thus KOENEN is able to offer enclosing consulting of optimised high tech bundle of solutions.

The cooperation is to be expanded to other scopes to use the synergy effects of both companies optimal. There are considerations like a transfer of know-how between development departments as well as international marketing and sales activities to opening up new markets.

TOPRO is world wide the leading manufacturer of high-resolution precision screens for the electronic industry since 50 years. 250 employees produce at several locations in

Texture:
500 mesh,
calandered;
wire- ϕ 18 μ m;
line/space
20 μ m/20 μ m



Japan. KOENEN supplies the European electronic industry with high-tech screens and laser stencils since about 35 years. KOENEN produces at Ottobrunn, Germany with 50 employees at present.

Due to the increase of the business connection to TOPRO, customers will get maximum advantages of the closely integration of the products

and the worldwide intensely services, support and rapid ability to deliver. ■

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PEM® Self-Clinching Fasteners Now Distributed in China

PEM® self-clinching fasteners are now available in China from the new Arconix distribution center in Shanghai. Arconix is the only authorized distributor in China for the original fasteners that provide permanent load-bearing threads in metal sheets too thin to be tapped. The fasteners allow faster and less expensive assembly of many products, the company reports. The company also supplies the fasteners throughout Asia/Pacific from its Singapore facility.

The self-clinching fasteners install permanently in metal sheets as thin as .020"/0.51mm and eliminate the need for washers, lock washers, and nuts for final attachment of components. They become an integral part of a sheet in which they are installed. Because they reduce the amount of hardware and inventory, they allow quicker product assembly and lower costs. They meet unified, ISO and MIL standards.

Arconix offers full technical support for the products manufactured by PennEngineering Fastening Technologies.

Different types of fasteners are tested in the company's extensively equipped Asian laboratories (in Shanghai and Singapore) to help determine the most appropriate products for the customer's applications. A PEMSERTER® press in the lab can install selected PEM fasteners for economical evaluation during design and prototyping.

The steel, stainless steel and aluminum fasteners come in dozens of types and thousands of variations including non-locking, self-locking, floating and blind hole. They are used as alternatives to ex-

truded or stamped threads in the electronics, data/telecom, medical, aerospace, and automotive industries, among others.

The company offers comprehensive VMI (Vendor Managed Inventory) programs to help customers reduce costs and increase production efficiency. The fully integrated VMI system is one of the most advanced in Asia. It uses EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) for secure online order placement and confirmation. Worldwide inventory checking locates the nearest available product to meet cus-



tomers needs. The company's Automated Replenishment Control Systems (ARCS®) assure a continuous supply of product while reducing total procurement costs and inventory cycle times. ■

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