

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Release

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COOKSON ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH SIGMAPRINT TECHNOLOGIES LTD LAUNCHES NEW MPM SEMI-AUTOMATIC STENCIL PRINTER AT APEX 2003

-- MicroFlex^Ô Delivers Affordable, Flexible Semi-Automatic Printing --

FRANKLIN, Mass. – March 31, 2003 – Cookson Electronics Equipment announced availability of the new MPM[®] MicroFlex[™] Semi-Automatic Stencil Printer, launched at APEX 2003, booth #3077.

The MicroFlex is ideally suited for batch-level production and prototype printing applications. Based on the highly successful Ultraprint 100, the Microflex has been re-engineered by SigmaPrint Technologies Ltd to enhance both flexibility and performance. An innovative “tool-less” magnetic workholder system with vacuum support allows for flexibility and quick product changeovers. The reciprocating table can be configured for left or right product loading to accommodate easy factory integration. An optional semi-automatic vision system is available for demanding applications, allowing the MicroFlex to repeatably print fine-pitch devices in a production environment. The printer features a pneumatic camera positioning system for quick and accurate product set-up. An automatic stencil cleaning system is available as an option to reduce defects caused by inconsistent manual cleaning processes.

The MicroFlex comes standard with a centre pivoting print head, and a dual squeegee system for accuracy and repeatability. Machine functions are controlled by a touch-screen LCD panel.

The MicroFlex will be available for sale in Q2 2003.

Cookson Electronics Equipment demonstrated the new MicroFlex printer during APEX 2003, March 31 – April 2, 2003 in Anaheim, Calif., at its booth #3077. For additional information, contact Cookson Electronics Equipment at 508-541-4895, or visit our web site at www.cooksonelectronics.com.



*MicroFlex^Ô Semi-Automatic
Stencil Printer*

- more -

About SigmaPrint Technologies, Ltd.

SigmaPrint Technologies, Ltd. is a contract design and service provider based in Portland, Dorset, England.

In conjunction with Cookson Electronics Equipment, SigmaPrint's expertise has been used to develop the MicroFlex printer. The company's staff is experienced in designing, producing, and supporting stencil printers for the SMT market.

SigmaPrint currently supports the Cookson Electronics Equipment acquired SMTech printer products under license, working with CEE's worldwide sales and service distribution network.

SigmaPrint is on the World Wide Web at www.sigmaprint.co.uk.

About Cookson Electronics Equipment

Speedline Technologies, also known as Cookson Electronics Equipment, is the global value leader for single source process expertise, solutions and service to the PCB assembly industry.

Cookson Electronics Equipment is comprised of six best-in-class brands – ACCEL microelectronics cleaning; CAMALOT dispensing and conformal coating systems; ELECTROVERT wave soldering, reflow soldering and cleaning equipment; MPM stencil and wafer bump printing systems; SCS conformal coatings and services; and PROTECT global service, support and training solutions.

The company is part of Cookson Electronics, the world's leading supplier of circuit board manufacturing and assembly solutions. Cookson Electronics is a division of Cookson Group plc, a global leader in electronic materials and ceramics.

Cookson Electronics Equipment is on the World Wide Web at www.cooksonelectronics.com.

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