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**News
Release**

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**COOKSON ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT AND SIGMAPRINT
TECHNOLOGIES ANNOUNCE EUROPEAN FIELD SERVICE AND
TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGREEMENT**

Portland, Dorset, England – October 31, 2002 – Cookson Electronics Equipment and SigmaPrint Technologies have entered into a service and support agreement for the European market, which covers several MPM stencil printers and all platforms acquired by Cookson Electronics Equipment from SMTEch Ltd. in 1998.

Effective immediately, SigmaPrint Technologies, a service provider for SMT capital equipment based in Portland, England, will assist Cookson Electronics Equipment's distribution network in providing technical phone support, field repair and process applications assistance for MPM Ultraprint 400 and Ultraprint 90 stencil printers. The agreement also covers SMTEch Sigmaprint 500, Sigmaprint 400, Sigmaprint 100 and Benchmark 90 stencil printing systems. In addition, SigmaPrint Technologies will become the European spare parts contractor for SMTEch products, providing original proprietary parts, or parts manufactured from the original SMTEch and/or Cookson Electronics Equipment drawings.

"Our goal is to provide the superior service and support expected within the European market," stated Keith Hansford, principal product field support expert, SigmaPrint Technologies. "The team we have assembled has an unprecedented degree of product background and expertise, which will benefit customers and distributors throughout Europe."

Mr. Hansford was previously employed as a customer support engineer with SMTEch, and as the product support specialist for Cookson Electronics Equipment's UP1500 stencil printer, bringing years of experience to the European market. In addition, SigmaPrint's design team was directly involved in the development of SMTEch's automatic, semi-automatic and benchtop printing platforms.

"The selection of SigmaPrint Technologies was a natural one," stated Dennis O'Neal, product marketing manager, Cookson Electronics Equipment. "The company's employees, formerly from SMTEch, possess a vast knowledge of our printers and a shared desire to provide customers with a high degree of service and support."

Inquiries can be directed to Cookson Electronics Equipment’s European headquarters at +49 (0) 6103.8320, through your local CEE distributor (listed below), or directly to SigmaPrint:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Distributor</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Distributor</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Belgium/Holland	Rotec Bvba	+32.14.44.50.00	Czech Republic	Amtech Sro	+420.541.22.5215
Denmark	Inimar	+45.4593.6262	Egypt	Sigma Group	+20.2.644.7245
France	MJB	+33.1.6006.8181	Finland	Syncotron Oy	+358.9.887.06130
Germany/Austria	GPS Technologies	+49.6102.743743	Greece	Diolir Global	+30.1.9566.027
Hungary	Elas Kft	+36.1.220.9401	Ireland	Contax Ltd.	+44.1489.885.808
Israel	Head-Tech Engineering Ltd..	+972.3.696.2132	Poland	CPS Industrial Eng	+48.55.261.9009
Romania	ICCO	+40.68.401212	South Africa	Testerion Pty. Ltd.	+27.11.704.3020
Spain/Portugal	Propelec S.A.	+34.96.149.94.55	Sweden/Norway	Cookson Elec.	+49.6103.8320
Switzerland	GPS Switzerland	+41.56.223.4717	Turkey	Norana Ltd.	+90.232.464.0011
United Kingdom	Contax Ltd.	+44.1489.885.808			

About SigmaPrint Technologies, Ltd.

SigmaPrint Technologies, Ltd. is a newly formed provider of service and support for SMT capital equipment based in Portland, Dorset, England. Comprised of industry veterans from SMTEch, the company’s staff is experienced in designing, producing and supporting stencil printers for the SMT market. In addition, SigmaPrint offers design and prototyping services for a variety of high technology industries. SigmaPrint is on the worldwide Web at www.sigmaprint.co.uk.

About Cookson Electronics Equipment

Cookson Electronics Equipment, formerly Speedline Technologies, 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 systems; 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 worldwide Web at www.cooksonelectronics.com.

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