

# GLOBAL SMT & PACKAGING

The Global Assembly Journal for SMT & Advanced Packaging Professionals

MEETING THE  
CHALLENGES OF  
INDUSTRY 4.0

**APEX Lights Up  
Las Vegas**

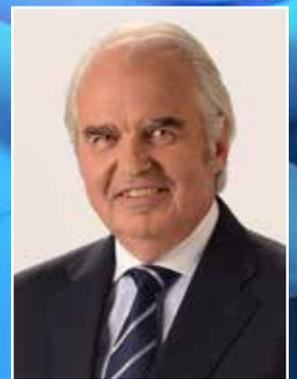
**Soldering in  
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IOT



**Per-Olof Loof  
Interview Inside**



# APEX Lights Up Las Vegas

For the first time since its inception, IPC APEX Expo was held at the Las Vegas Convention Center, March 15 – 17th. The venue was a little old and tired, but the exhibition went off successfully with a lot of European-style booth build (as opposed to pipe and drape), indicating that suppliers were confident and spending money on their displays.

With few notable exceptions, the PCB and EMS assembly industry was well represented and the show floor seemed relatively busy over all three days. The largest buzz around the show centered on the factory automation debate and the launch of the OML specification by Mentor Graphics (see page 20).

Of the many new products on display, my Editor's Choice goes to the new batch cleaner from **Austin American**, which has a rose tester built into the cleaner, providing full testing and traceability of every board.



■ Mentor Graphics' IoT Line Controllers.

Also new on the show floor was a closed-loop lead tinning system from **ACE**, which utilized a unique side-tinning technique on quad flat packs to avoid shorts. The system can be used for tinning, removing gold from the intermetallic to avoid gold embrittlement and re-tinning.

**ECD** made a successful entry into the Dry Cabinet market last year with their SmartDRY range of cabinets. Each cabinet returns to optimum humidity extremely fast and is armed with a colorful traffic light system to show when a cabinet door has been open more than 30 seconds (red), is not back to optimum humidity (amber), is at optimum humidity (green).

**Mentor Graphics** caused the biggest stir of the show. Following the successful introduction of their OML in February, the company launched two new IoT Line Controllers that they claim will interface with any piece of production equipment and translate the data output to OML.



■ Austin American Aqua Rose batch cleaner.



■ ECD SuperDRY 48F cabinet.