

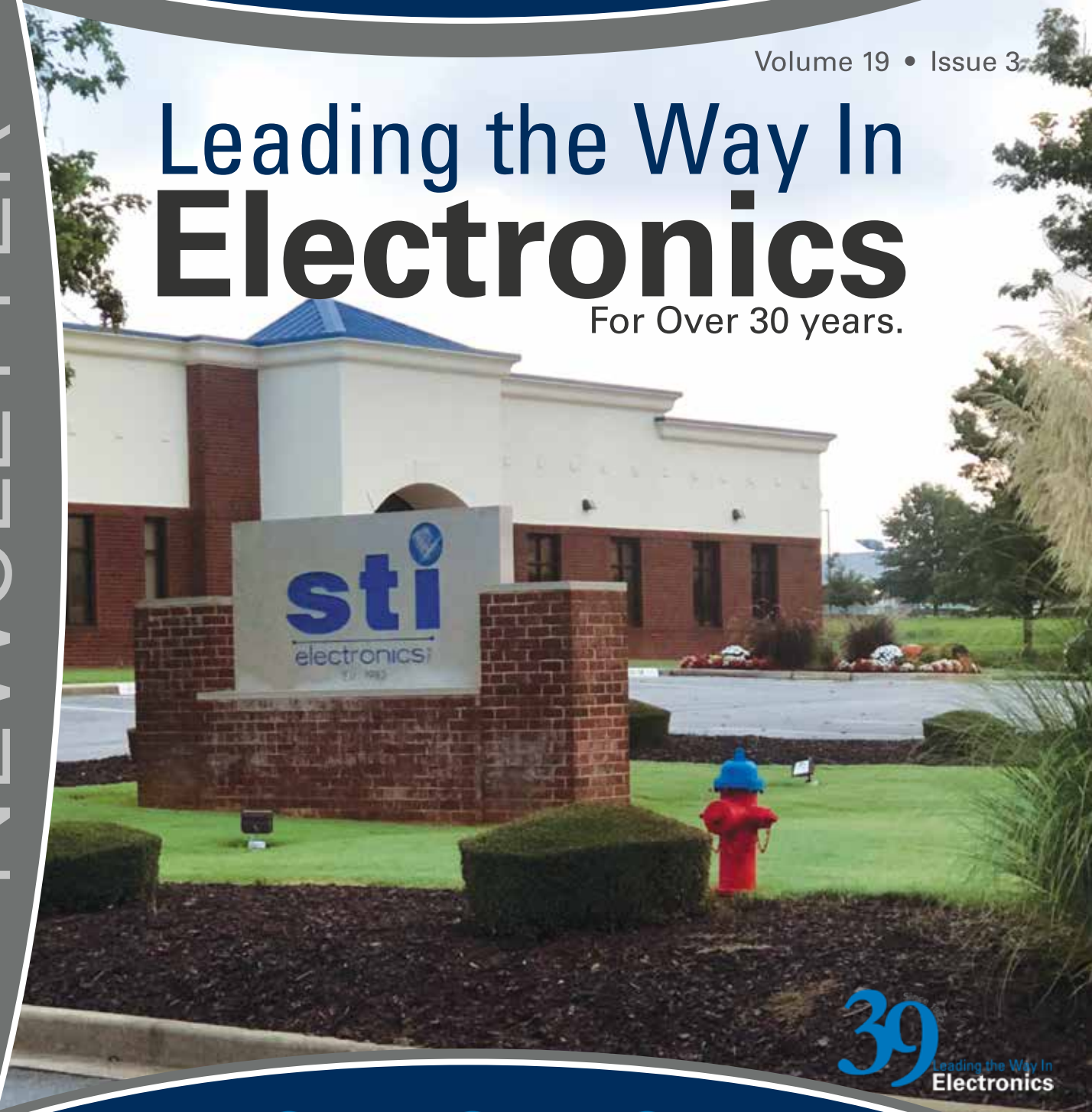


Volume 19 • Issue 3

# Leading the Way In Electronics

For Over 30 years.

NEWSLETTER



30  
Leading the Way In  
Electronics



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# Dave's World

SEPTEMBER 2021

## It's All About Me

I have an acquaintance who is about my age and was a very good high school and college athlete. The walls of a large room in his house are covered with awards and letters and other souvenirs from his athletic career and the room itself is filled with trophies and other tributes. It is quite the museum. His wife calls it his "I love me" room. I never intend to write an "I love me" article but I do have some things I would like to share with you that I am excited about and proud of.

Mike Konrad asked if I would be his guest on his Concept 2 Creation podcast. The podcast discusses the journey of an entrepreneur and their company from its origin to its current state. I'm a big fan of Mike's and his podcast so I quickly agreed but really didn't know how it would turn out. I love talking about STI Electronics and its history but I was a little worried the family dynamics wouldn't come across well. It was just a minute or two into the interview when my Dad's photo appeared on the screen and it was obvious Mike had done his homework and was thinking the same way. We talked for about an hour about Mom & Dad and our journey from China Lake in the 1970's to Madison today. It was a fun conversation although of course with a month or two to think about it, I wish I would have said some things a little differently or answered a question in a different way or had a few less "ums". Mike's professionalism and editing ability produced a final product that I'm proud to say represents STI and the Raby's well. If you haven't listened to it yet, you can find the

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President/CEO

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video version at <https://youtu.be/szJ06lnmXb4> or the audio only version at <https://www.spreaker.com/episode/46016112>. You can also find it at [www.mikekonrad.com](http://www.mikekonrad.com) where you can subscribe to The Concept to Creation or one of the other great podcasts Mike puts out on a regular basis. Let me know what you think of it.

To continue the I'm excited and proud theme, Tanya Martin recently called to let me know I had been selected to receive the SMTA's Founder's Award. I'm not speechless often but that moment definitely qualified. STI (with me as the representative) joined the SMTA in 1984 to learn about and keep up with this new SMT technology where component leads weren't going to be inserted through PCB vias (through-hole technology). Our first impression was, that can't work, can it? Turns out it can and did.

A few years later I began to get more involved at the chapter and corporate level of SMTA and truly began to understand the value of the organization. I've said many times that STI is a family business. SMTA is as close to a family organization as I've ever seen and is accepting to anyone who wants to be a part of it including the socially awkward me. Once involved, I was hooked and began getting to know people that would become very important in my life and career. As I went through the local and national offices, I learned leadership skills and gained experiences I would not have received any other way. I also met, travelled with, and became friends with the leaders and some of the smartest people in our industry. I am so thankful for those experiences and people. Over the years, I've presented this particular award 3 times but never thought I was qualified to receive it. The award is supposed to be

presented the first week of November at SMTAI in Minneapolis. I'm supposed to get a few minutes for an acceptance speech and I haven't started writing that yet. I'm sure the speech will start with some specific thank you's to JoAnn, Greg, Rod, Chuck, Paul, Tom, Rich, and many, many more. It will also include a story or two which could involve starting SMTAI or the first chapter meetings in China or experiences with the local chapters from all geographic locations. I wish it would hurry up and get here before those in charge realize they've made a horrible mistake and Tanya was just kidding when she called. Until that happens, I can't tell you how honored I am to be this year's recipient and how much the SMTA means to me.

*David Rabby*



# IN THE NEWS

## **President/CEO David Raby received the Founder's Award from the Surface Mount Technology Association (SMTA)**



This award recognizes members who have made exceptional contributions to the industry, as well as ongoing support and service to the SMTA. Raby was selected as the recipient because he has provided skilled leadership as a past President and Board member, an officer in the Huntsville Chapter, and an ambassador. His dedication extends to his active participation in association activities, both personally and through the company.

"To say I am honored to receive this award might be the biggest understatement of the year. One of my goals as well as STI's from the very beginning was not only to support the electronics manufacturing industry but to contribute, give back and make a difference. We have hopefully accomplished this through scholarships, technology transfer, donations of time and resources, etc.," said Raby. "What really stands out in my mind in receiving this award is the contribution the industry and, most notably, the friends and industry colleagues have made in my life and my career path. SMTA has played a huge role in the opportunities to support and give back to our industry, and I humbly thank you for this honor and prestigious award."

"SMTA and the electronics industry have benefited immensely from David Raby's contributions over the years," said Tanya Martin, CMP, Executive Director of SMTA.

STI Electronics (then Soldering Technology International) joined SMTA in 1984, which was the year the organization began. Raby said that they joined to get access to the most recent technology and keep up with the changes. "At the time, I didn't realize the value of the networking, but that became extremely valuable later," he added.

Over the years, Raby has been very involved in the organization, having held every office in the Huntsville office. He was elected to the Association Board of Directors in 1997 and re-elected in 2001. Additionally, he served on the Planning Committee from 1997-2000 and was the Treasurer in 2003. In 2004, he was elected President and re-elected in 2006. Currently, he is serving as the Huntsville Chapter President again.

Raby has enjoyed being a part of the Association, and looks forward to many more years as an active member. He values the people he's met, saying that many have become lifelong friends. He also is proud that SMTAi was started during his time as President, as well as the planting of seeds for many of the international events we now have.

SMTA has recognized exceptional individual and corporate members for their immeasurable contributions to the association since 1994. Raby is dedicated to preserving the traditions of the association and maintaining high standards of professionalism in the industry. He will be recognized during SMTA International this November 1-4, 2021 in Minneapolis, MN.

"Through SMTA, I've been able to get to know and learn from the smartest people in our industry. I've been able to travel to places I probably never would have gone to and I have stories I'll never grow tired of telling. I can't imagine how STI Electronics, or I, would have made it through all of these years without the SMTA," Raby added. "It is hard to believe they are giving me an award. It seems like it should be the other way around."

# HAPPENINGS

## *Congratulations*

During this third quarter of 2021 we have had several anniversaries to celebrate. We would like to congratulate each one on achieving this anniversary with us! They have all worked hard for this accomplishment and we truly appreciate their dedication.



**Mark • 21 Years**



**Yolanda • 2 Years**



**Julio • 9 Years**



**Sharon • 4 Years**



**Teresa • 4 Years**



**Joel • 4 Years**



**Katrena • 11 Years**



**Caroline • 2 Years**



# UP CLOSE *and* PERSONAL

## Interview with Julio Estrada *Meet Julio*

Houston Training Center Manager

**How long have you been part of STI Electronics?** Since July 27, 2012

**What do you do for STI?** I do everything, lol! I guess you could say I am the marketing, customer support, IPC MIT trainer, stockroom clerk, shipping logistics, janitor person, along with all other necessary titles I perform all activities that are needed to keep the Houston Training Center up and going.



## *Just For Fun*

**Tell us about your family.** I've been married to my beautiful supporter, glue, love of my life Dana for 15 years (October 15, 2006). We have one daughter Tatum 20 years old, and one son, Anthony 36 years old

**Tell us about your pets.** We are parents of Chester, he is a miniature 15 pound Dachsund, 8 years old. Chester had a spinal cord injury 3 years ago and currently only has use of his front legs. Although he cannot walk around on all four he does stand on them. We have a wheel chair he really likes and he thinks all four are on line, lol. He is like a little man! We have Millie, a Rat Terrier mix. She is 4 years old and weighs about 16 pounds. She is long legged and we call her Chester's wife, lol, because she really does look out for his wellbeing, except when it comes to food. One last thing about them, they are both dappled and almost have the same spots, lol





**Do you have a favorite place to visit?** The beach, then the wooded State parks in any State.

**What's your favorite type of music/song/artist?** I really dig Praise and Worship music. If you don't know what that is you should ask me! My favorite song is "Worthy of Your Name" by Passion Worship. Why, you might ask? Because Jesus is worthy of His name!

**What is your favorite movie or TV show?** I don't watch any TV in that since, but we do really enjoy YouTube bloggers that are into travel trailers, diesel pusher class As, pop up campers, then journey around the country. We plan to do that in our retirement as well. Or goal is to travel from one side to the other of this great country, the mighty USA, and then do it again, till we can't any more.

**What's your favorite meal/food?** I liked to say that I don't have a favorite, but I do, and it's Mexican Fajitas, beef especially, but I stay away from them most of the time.

**Tell us about any hobbies that you enjoy.** I don't have any "alone" hobbies, but I have to say that I do tend to "tinker" around with lots of mechanical moving parts, but I have to watch myself or I will have too many unfinished projects lying around. We "hobby" ourselves together (Dana and Me), so we stick to things we love to do as a family, so Camping, Fishing, and anything that involves the outdoors is the top of the list. Yes we do own a Travel Trailer. I am however NOT a hunter.

**What is your favorite motto or quote that summarizes your approach to life?** I had to think about this one – After meditating a bit, I have to say that I am always focusing on renewing my mind. It comes from the book of Romans 12:1-2 KJV:

1I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service 2And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Yes, it is a constant challenge!

**What's one fun thing to know about you?** I do love meeting new people which is the great thing about my job, in that it happens almost every Monday, lol, and also telling true stories.



**What's your favorite thing about working at STI?** Not the travel, that's just something I have to do. Seriously, STI has been over all a great opportunity for me, so I have to say acquiring new skills, adding to my skill sets, especially in marketing the company that I have to say is at the top of the list. I can say it like this, I love to reach out to new potential customers, and then when the time comes to conduct the course, and deliver the product they have purchased from STI, then all other activities after that.

**What is your favorite non-profit to support and why?** I love to support international missionaries because Jesus said, blessed are the feet of those that spread the Gospel!

**Anything else you'd like to share with your team members?** That I really appreciate them!





# New Technology

## Laser Marking

STI Electronics, Inc. is committed to bringing our customers the latest and most advanced technology. One of the most recent additions to our company is Laser Marking. Our team is dedicated to being on the leading edge with the newest techniques and equipment. Our experience and knowledge can provide our customers with more efficient and effective contract services.

**How It Works** - Laser marking works by using a focused beam of light to mark the surface of a material. When the beam interacts with the material's surface, it alters the material's properties and appearance. This concentrated beam targets only a specified area, allowing the laser marking machine to create precise, high quality, high-contrast marks that are easy to read or scan on virtually any surface. This feature makes laser marking ideal for applications where accuracy and permanency are critical to success.

- Essential
- Keeps Track of Products
- Improves Quality
- Minimizes Counterfeiting
- Eco-Friendly
- Clean
- Affordable
- Energy Efficient
- Easy To Read

All work performed using Fancort Industries  
LCD10C.

Eliminates Cost & Downtime

Permanent Identification

Complies with Federal Law

Clean Processing with  
Minimal Contamination

Connects Parts to the  
Industrial Internet of Things

NAICS Codes: 334418, 334511, 336419,  
541330, 541380, 541715, 561910 and 332812  
and Cage Code 1JX07.



# IN THE NEWS



**Mark McMeen**  
*VP Engineering Services/Manufacturing*



**Pat Scott**  
*Training Services Manager*



**Robert Fornefeld**  
*Master Instructor*

## Three of STI Electronics' Team Members Honored for Contributions to IPC and the Electronics Industry

STI Electronics, Inc., a full-service organization including engineering, contract manufacturing and training services, announces Mark McMeen, VP of Engineering Services/Manufacturing; Pat Scott, Training Services Manager; and Robert Fornefeld, Master Instructor received awards for their leadership and contributions to IPC and the Electronics Industry.

IPC presented Committee Leadership, Special Recognition and Distinguished Committee Service Awards on August 30 at IPC's SummerCom

Standards Development Committee Meetings in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The awards were presented to individuals who made significant contributions to IPC and the industry by lending their time and expertise in the development of electronics manufacturing standards.

Mark McMeen, VP of Engineering Services/Manufacturing, received an award for his contribution to IPC-1291B.

Pat Scott, Training Services Manager, received a Distinguished Committee

Service Award for her contribution to the A-620D Training Program.

Robert Fornefeld, Master Instructor, received an award for his leadership of the 7-31b IPC-A-610 Task Group that developed IPC-A-610H, Acceptability of Electronic Assemblies.

Congratulations to Mark, Pat & Robert for their outstanding service to IPC and the electronics industry and for always representing STI well.

<https://cutt.ly/VW3wzvU>





## Engineering Services

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Analytical Lab Services  
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## Training Resources

Training Services  
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Inspection

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# On-line IPC Training & Certification



✓ Register Now

In addition to our classroom and on-site training courses, STI offers on-line training and remote testing for the following IPC lecture based Certification/Recertification courses:

IPC-A-610 Certified IPC Trainer (CIT) and Certified IPC Specialist (CIS)

-Standard required for class

IPC/WHMA-A-620 CIT and CIS

-Standard required for class

IPC-A-600 CIT and CIS

-Standard required for class

Note: Currently hands-on courses are not available for on-line training or remote testing for CIT's or CIS's.

The Certified Subject Matter Expert (CSE) on-line courses are also available for

• IPC-A-610, IPC/WHMA-A-620, IPC-A-600, IPC-7711/7721 and J-STD-001

-Standard required for class

Exams that are required for these courses can now be proctored remotely using IPC EDGE.

## Leading the Way In Electronics



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**Do you have a question?  
Do you need information?  
CHAT with us online!**



# IPC SummerCom 2021

By Frank Honyotski

IPC SummerCom 2021 was held August 28 – September 2, 2021 in Milwaukee, WI. Here are some highlights from the meetings that were attended.

Attendance was surprisingly high for meetings with no tradeshow going on in the adjacent hall. Next year the Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo (EWPTEx) will be back in full force and run concurrently with IPC SummerCom 2022. The tradeshow portion will take place May 10-12 and the IPC committee meetings will start on May 7th.

IPC announced that their typesetter who has been responsible for the documents these past 25 years has announced his retirement. Adobe InDesign will be used for formatting the documents going forward which will result in some font changes but they will not be to jarring to the user base. A significant topic of discussion happened in the IPC/WHMA-A-620 meeting. A proposal to remove Acceptable condition and only use Process Indicator or Defect conditions in the document was presented. The result of that discussion led to decision that a survey needed to be conducted. When the survey is

complete there will be continued discussions at APEX 2022 in San Diego which will run from 22-27 January 2022.

CIT certification was also discussed with IPC staff. Currently the IPC Policy & Procedures document version 7.3 states that a CIT may not test for 90 days when the certification has expired. Attendees were concerned with this requirement. IPC listened to the users and will look at this portion of the policy again to see if it is fair for all users of the programs. Many of the slide presentations for the different courses were updated to correct information and you are encouraged to check for updated slides before conducting your next class.

The merging of the IPC certification portal, help desk and IPC Edge platform is still being worked on by IPC programmers and it will be a while before we see it come to fruition.

The 3-day combined J-STD-001 and IPC-A-610 meeting dispositioned over 50 comments to the documents and one of those involved the fill of a cup terminal. If the cup has 360 degrees wetting even when only 50% filled the data

shows that the wire breaks 100% of the time so look for some changes to fill requirements in the upcoming Revision K of each document.

If you would like to be involved with any of the standards development go to IPC.org and select the Standards tab where you will see IPC Works which is where the committee work happens. Sign up and ask to join the committee that is of interest. As lot of the meetings are conducted over video conferencing so even if you can not attend the big shows, you can help all of us in the Electronics industry to make the best standards for everyone to use.



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# Mixed Technology Training Kit

Now available in both Lead Free and Tin Lead versions, the Mixed Technology Solder Training Kit offers a realistic mixture of Through-Hole and SMT. It contains many of the common components found in mature technology applications for both through-hole and surface mount production. It is our most popular training kit due to its tremendous flexibility for production training. The Solder Training Kits provide a cost effective and consistent approach to solder training. Instructors no longer have to spend their valuable time keeping track of inventory and sorting through production scrap. The parts are packaged in static shield bags to promote ESD practices. The kits are a reliable and economical way to ensure that each student and each class receive the same training materials. All parts and boards are guaranteed solderable. Custom boards, kits, and individual parts are also available. The Combination Kit has increased focus on SMT as reflected in additional component count.



SKU: 405-1075  
Category: Training Kits & Materials



<https://stiusa.com/product/mixed-technology-training-kit/>

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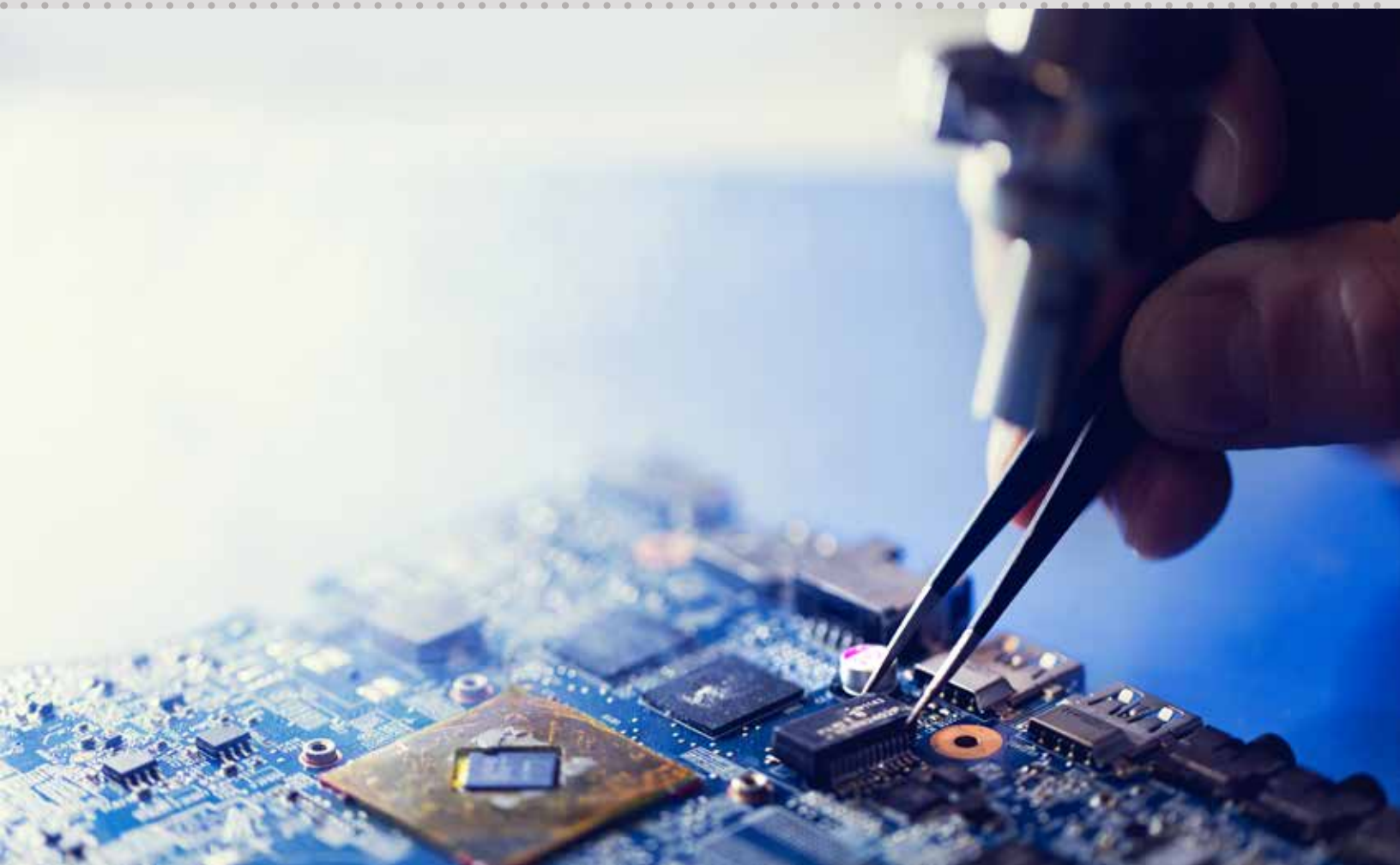


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