

MHS in Santa Clara for the GSA Suppliers Expo & Conference!



MHS Electronics exhibited at the GSA Suppliers Expo & Conference held in Santa Clara, on the 2nd of October. This annual show gathers key companies of the semiconductor industry and provides the opportunity to meet customers, analyze the sector, the markets and available and newly developed technologies.

MHS presented its extended technology and service portfolio, including the new Swindon facility and the recent technology developments at Nantes.

Although attendance was slightly down from previous years, overall, the show was deemed to be a success. The MHS team met a number of new and existing clients and the feedback regarding the MHS offering is and remains positive.

MHS Electronics UK TS16949: 2002 re-certification audit

Interview with Mick Church (Former Swindon Quality Manager and today Corporate IS Director)

Although MHS Electronics UK has a strong history operating under quality management systems, can we say that the separation from Zarlink is now well managed and that your Quality system is now independent?

Mick Church: "Yes, MHS Electronics UK has a strong history concerning quality management systems spanning over 50 years at Swindon. Nevertheless, the ISO/TS16949 re-certification was considered as a major event as it included the new perimeter of the company (acquisition

by MHS of the Zarlink Analog Foundry services activity in March 2008).

The first step of this audit was to change our company name from Zarlink Semiconductor to MHS Electronics UK.

Then the major item for us was to have all our systems rechecked, as our certification was up for its 3 yearly renewal. Two auditors from BSI came for 3 days and completed a re-certification audit that includes looking at every system from the top to the bottom and across the organization. The result of this audit confirms the separation from Zarlink was well managed and the quality system of MHS Electronics UK is clearly completed and independent today."



Could you please remind of the advantages of ISO/TS certification?

MC: "I would say the ISO/TS certification leads us to constantly reduce mistakes, manufacturing costs and to drive a continuous improvement approach through out the organization. There are 3 main drivers for being certified. Firstly, many of our customers ask us for the ISO/TS standard. This standard is required for the automotive market but also needed by a lot of customers as an assurance of quality. That is why our shareholders, who are the second driver, also understood the importance to get this certification. Finally, the factory fully understands this standard brings

structure, organization and data, reduces costs and increases the production yield. Quality at Swindon is fully embedded, everyone is included."

How was the audit?

MC: "The auditors were very impressed by our fully automated and advanced systems (SAP, PROMIS, CDCA etc) and they were also extremely impressed with the positive and informed responses from a very professional group of Managers, Engineers and Staff based in Swindon.

This result will no doubt confirm continuous improvement and efficiency improvements to all of our very wide customer base at Swindon."

Do you plan to communicate our successful audit to your key customers?

MC: "It is important to let our key customers know we have been re-certified. That is why our Sales, Marketing and Communication team is preparing a communication plan. We intend to inform by our website and to send our newsletter and a mail to each of our customers."

What is the next step and are you ready?

MC: "The next step is the ISO 18001 certification (Safety) with the audit planned in the beginning of 2009. Chris Jolliffe (Health, Safety and environmental manager) is in charge of this audit and has already paved the way for it to give one more assurance to customers, suppliers and employees.

We also intend to apply for the EN9100 certification (Aerospace) which is similar to the TS16949: 2002 standard. Alan Colman, who will take charge of the Quality in Swindon from now on, is working on a gap analysis to build a plan and to get ready for the audit we expect in the end of 2009."

Many thanks to Mick CHURCH for this interview!

Webconference comes to MHS



In order to facilitate quick communication between its entities and to be an environmentally responsible company, MHS has invested in the implementation of a web conference system in all its locations. Our meeting rooms are now equipped with the necessary tools for webconference and teleconference meetings lessening the need to travel between sites for meetings. All employees will have the opportunity to be fully trained on the new tools with the objective of decreasing travel when possible and improving the overall efficiency of the business.

Information System

In April 2008, MHS launched an IT improvement program ("ISIS"). The objective is to implement a common Information System for the entire group by January 2010 with a SAP core model dedicated to Purchasing, Sales and Finance processes.

While this represents a significant investment, MHS believes an integrated IT system will provide MHS with strategic and sustainable competitive advantages. Pierre TAUZINAT, CEO, said: "For us to realize our foundry model we need to find competitive advantages in our technologies and our operations. This integrated proprietary IT system is an essential part of that plan."