

Dainippon Screen Releases Visual Color Inspector for Checking Intermediate PCB Manufacturing Processes

— Improves Yield by Wider Application of Visual Color Final Inspection Technology —

The Precision Equipment Company (President: Kyohei Fujisawa) of Dainippon Screen Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Kyoto, Japan) has developed the WI-8000, a work size PCB visual color inspector. This system enables visual color inspection in intermediate PCB manufacturing processes such as solder mask (solder adhesion prevention film) forming and silkscreen printing. Sales will commence in January 2008.

Recently, continued growth of the electronic component industry, which supplies components to makers of devices such as digital home appliances, automotive equipment and game machines, has brought increased demand for a larger variety of PCBs. To meet these demands, the PCB industry must urgently take action to improve production efficiency and increase quantity. To stay ahead, each manufacturer is striving to establish new production flows that improve yields by checking for defects not only in the final PCB manufacturing process, but also in intermediate processes.

Soon on sale, the WI-8000 meets these industry needs. Integrating our accumulated knowledge in high-speed image processing technologies with the visual color inspection technology established in the FP-8000 PCB Final Visual Inspector, the WI-8000 expands these technologies to various intermediate PCB manufacturing processes, such as solder mask forming, silkscreen printing and various plating processes. Utilizing automatic visual inspection, the WI-8000 detects solder mask stripping and other defects, and immediately feeds data sampling and analysis results back to the manufacturing system to remove the defects' causes, thus contributing to improved yield. The WI-8000 has an inspection range up to 660 x 600 mm, and provides high-performance image processing engine that enables high-speed processing (approx. 25 seconds* for a 600 x 500 mm PCB). Therefore, this system can be incorporated into existing production lines without reducing productivity. The WI-8000 also provides an optional verification unit that allows users to view defects with a monitor. The WI-8000 can be applied to a variety of processes to accommodate customers' diverse production line configurations.

With release of the WI-8000, Dainippon Screen meets the demands for improved PCB quality and yield, and sets the stage for a new inspection equipment market. Dainippon Screen also aims for further increased share in the PCB industry, with a long-range view on development and global marketing of color inspection equipment applicable to high-precision PCBs.

* Inspection time varies depending on PCB design.

* This system will be demonstrated at HKPCA & IPC Show 2007, to be held at the Shenzhen Convention & Exhibition Center (Guangdong, China), from December 5 (Wed) to December 7 (Fri).

Date sales are expected to commence:

January 2008

**Suggested retail price in Japan
(before tax):**

40 million yen (excluding optional accessories)

Expected annual sales (first year):

10 units



WI-8000

Please download the photo from
<http://www.screen.co.jp/press/nr-photo/indexE.html>