

MYNEWS

NEWS ABOUT SMT

MYDATA[®]

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MYDATA and Frontside:

**– Strong cooperation
yields ultra precision**

Faster setups with TPSys 2.4



Ultra precision for Frontside due to strong cooperation

Almost 15 years ago, Robert Olsson lost his company. Once he had got over the worst of the shock, he decided to give it another go. Now he runs Frontside, a successful electronic company assembling circuit boards. And this demands precision, which is made possible by MYDATA's Agilis, a revolutionary feeder system.

Today Robert and his family own the small electronics company called Frontside Electronics AB. The company Robert runs is prospering, with no loans, annual profits of several million and Frontside can boast a triple-A ranking, top creditworthiness in other words. A hundred or so loyal customers, among them Volvo, Saab, Ericsson and SKF. Thanks to the reputation Frontside has won for the high quality products manufactured, new customers are knocking on the door, mainly through word of mouth.

Sophistication and finesse

"A lot of the time we are working to micrometer tolerances," Robert points out. "It's not good enough to be precise, printed circuit boards (PCB) have to be exactly right, not least where the surface mounted components are concerned. The slightest deviation, invisible to the naked eye, can set up a disturbance that will wreck an entire PCB."

Not only are the products advanced, the machines used to make them surpass most things in terms of sophistication and finesse.

Human eyes and human hands are only permitted to inspect and make adjustments where this is possible.

The most advanced machinery in the business

Robert has been cooperating with MYDATA since the mid-80s and today the old TP9 machines still stand in Frontside's premises in Mölnlycke, just outside Göteborg. But the machines used for day-to-day production are very different and considerably more advanced.



Robert Olsson runs Frontside, an electronics company that assembles circuit boards.

“They come from MYDATA as well,” Robert tells us. “MYDATA’s machines are not merely the most advanced you can find in this business. It’s simple to set up and change between jobs as well as load and unload components into feeders. Our largest MYDATA machine, the MY19, can cope with up to 16 magazines each containing 16 different components. What’s more, the machines are upgradeable so they can be renewed and additions made to keep up with technological developments. One example is MYDATA’s latest component feeder, Agilis, which could be fitted to existing MYDATA machines without problems.”

Agilis provides benefits

Agilis has many advantages and Robert describes some of them:

“Each feeder and each component reel has a barcode and an ID-chip. This enables the machine automatically to know in which feeder, feeder position and machine the components are loaded to be picked. Agilis also has a patented “plough function” that lifts the



The Agilis component feeder has a patented guide track that ensures reliable feeds.

protective plastic from the component reel and guarantees a sure feed for each individual component.

MYDATA at the cutting edge

Fredrik Moberg is product manager at MYDATA and more than proud of both the Agilis feeder and the cooperation with Frontside.

“Agilis provides a solution that not only offers shorter set-up time and faster and more precise feeding of components but also a higher degree of automation. And in addition, Agilis can cope with 8, 12 and 16 millimeter tape, which accounts for up to 85 percent of all components in electronic production.

With about 200 employees and operations all over the world, MYDATA is a knowledge-based company at the cutting edge of the industry. Fredrik considers the cooperation with Frontside to be rewarding from a number of different aspects:

“After 15 years you get to know each other very well and what both are capable of. Frontside is a strong, successful company and their enormous expertise can provide MYDATA with a lot of feedback.”

Exchange of know-how

MYDATA and Frontside do not merely have a “supplier-customer” relationship but they also cooperate by exchanging knowledge. Frontside beta-tests MYDATA’s new products and its experience and expertise add value to its reactions.

“In a way we function in symbiosis,” Robert Olsson explains. “And that probably characterises the kind of relationship we want to have at Frontside with both our suppliers

and our customers. Being business-minded today means more than just thinking about revenues – it involves good relationships as well.”

A heart that beats for Sweden

Frontside has about 180 loyal customers and every year manufactures about 250 different types of printed circuits in its purpose-designed premises. Static electricity or a single speck of dust could cause a disaster, so stringent demands are not just one of Frontside’s hallmarks but an absolute necessity. With the support of its suppliers, the company carries a stock of about 1000 different components so that production is rational and flexible.

“We are specialists at producing in a rational way,” says Robert Olsson, chosen a few years ago to be Businessman of the Year in Hårryda. He sees nothing remarkable in his small family owned company, building products such as printed circuit boards, but rather considers it to be the typical Swedish model.

“Our only chance in Sweden is to develop products that can be made by machines. We can never compete with countries in the Far East where manual labour is concerned. But machines are just as fast in Sweden as they are there. My heart beats for Sweden and I want to go on producing here. This means that we have to reckon with small and medium-sized volumes, as the large-volume contracts often go to other countries. So our aim is to go on doing what we do and to have fun while we do it. The icing on the cake is being able to make money so that we can invest when we need to,” Robert Olsson concludes.

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Now you can load virtually any component tape in 10 seconds!

MYDATA launches new fast-loading Agilis feeders for 12 and 16 mm tape. The Agilis system can now handle all the most common tape sizes, which makes it possible to load up to 90 percent of components in just a few seconds. And that means some pretty significant time savings. In addition to the new feeder sizes, MYDATA introduces a new magazine with a linear feed design. This gives smooth, precise and high speed feeding, whether for 0201s or even smaller components, thus helping eliminate pick errors.

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Faster setups with TPSys 2.4

TPSys 2.4, the latest version of MYDATA's machine operating system software, is designed to speed up setups and changeovers using sophisticated operator guidance and database capabilities. New features in version 2.4 include automatic illumination settings for robust vision centering, barcode loading of tray components and support of the new Agilis 12/16 feeders.

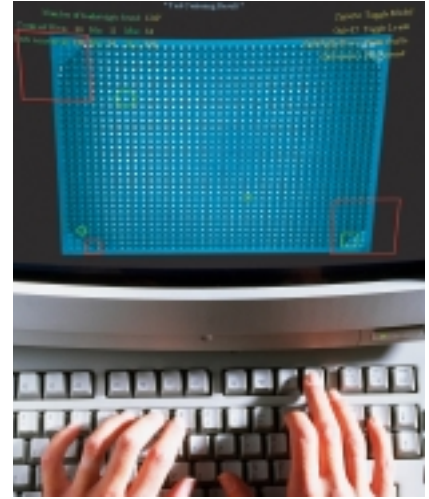
Correct illumination settings are of the utmost importance for robust vision centering and non-stop component placement. TPSys 2.4 can automatically optimize the illumination settings for the vision camera, ensuring that the inspection will be successful with any batch of components from any supplier. More functions have also been added to the test centering sequence, allowing the user to graphically verify the package model and its illumination settings.

Another important new feature is barcode loading of trays. A new tray can be loaded into the TEX unit or Tray Wagon Magazine by scanning only two

barcodes. The operator may also choose to scan additional information such as batch code or quantity for full component traceability.

TPSys 2.4 also features support for advanced network configurations, pre-pick inspection of flip chips, on-the-fly inspection of magazine fiducials, and improved handling of large components.

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MYDATA, BTU and DEK Seminar Tackles Lead Free Together

MYDATA automation GB together with leading industry suppliers, BTU and DEK held a successful 2 day lead free seminar headed 'The Future of Cost Effective Lead Free Electronics Manufacturing' Dec 2 - 3 at the DEK headquarters in Weymouth, UK. Presentations from MYDATA HQ personnel, Mats Magnell and Thomas Lindstrom, covered critical

areas on the impact of lead free on the surface mount process and True SMT flexibility.

The other sponsoring companies, BTU and DEK presented topics including, oven features required for the lead free process; emerging technology in the screen printing arena; process improvements through audit and a case study from a customer who has implemented lead free.

Production managers and engineers attending received all presentations with a high degree of interest and rated the seminar a great success.

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MYDATA Exhibits

January
INTERNEPCON JAPAN
Tokyo Big Sight, Japan
Jan. 28-30, 2004

February
APEX 2004
Convention Center, Anaheim CA, USA
Feb. 24-26, 2004

March
Canadian High Tech
International Center, Mississauga, ON, USA
March 24-25, 2004

April
NEPCON Shanghai 2004
Everbright Convention & Exhibition Centre
April 26-29, 2004

May
NEPCON UK
Hilton Metropole, Brighton, UK
May 26-27, 2004

NEPCON East
Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA, USA
May 5-6, 2004

June
Taipei SMT
Taiwan
June 30-July 03, 2004



APEX 2004 - Who Defines Flexibility ... MYDATA

MYDATA automation, Inc. will be exhibiting in the upcoming APEX show on Feb 24-26 in Anaheim, CA, booth #857. The exhibit will feature the new 12/16 Agilis family, the latest TPSys 2.4 software, and a full range of MY-Series machines that have defined MYDATA as the benchmark in flexible SMT for high

mix production. Visitors to the booth will have an opportunity to see the latest releases for increased flexibility and can enter to win an Apple iPod MP3 player each day of the show.

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