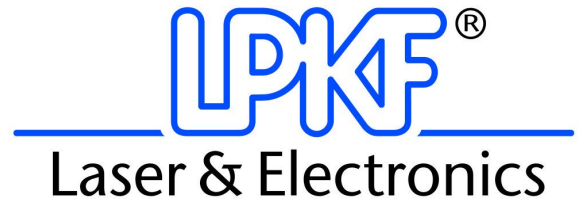


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Molded Interconnect Devices in Consumer Electronics

December 2008, Garbsen, Germany – The almost perfect miniature landscapes constructed by ambitious model railway enthusiasts have always fascinated people of all ages. This perfection can now also call on the attributes of high-tech: Fully automatic digital coupling components are now manufactured for the first time using the laser direct structuring method.

LPKF Laser & Electronics AG in Germany has been in the PCB and laser technology business for more than 30 years. With its innovative LPKF-LDS® method for the laser direct structuring of MIDs, LPKF engineers working together with their customers have developed a remarkable application: A laser beam directly structures the already molded components, and subsequent metallization perfectly builds the electronic circuit. Production services are provided by LPKF's German subsidiary, LaserMicronics.

"The LPKF-LDS® method combines a large number of benefits: It is inexpensive, extremely flexible and robust--all reasons for being selected for this interesting application in the consumer electronics sector," says Niels Heininger, Vice President PCB/MID-Equipment LPKF.

The coupling developed for T4T by a manufacturing consortium makes it easier for model railway enthusiasts to put together trains fully automatically. The LPKF-LDS® method is used to directly integrate high resolution circuits onto the three-dimensional housing of the miniature couplings--packing numerous functions into a tiny space. This interesting solution is already an award winner, taking home the prestigious MID Industry Prize.

About LPKF Laser & Electronics AG

LPKF Laser & Electronics AG is a German company producing machines and laser systems used in electronics production, the automotive industry and the manufacture of solar cells. Around 20 per cent of its employees are involved in research and development. LPKF supplies quality of the highest standard at an excellent price/performance ratio. For more information, visit: www.lpkf.com



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