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White Paper Highlights Production of Step Stencils with Laser Systems

Tualatin, OR, April 2013 — Exciting news from LPKF's application engineers: LPKF StencilLaser systems can now produce high-precision steps in solder paste stencils, given suitable process control. The process will be presented at SMT 2013 in Nuremberg and is described in detail on the company's website.

Step stencils are special SMD stencils that have local recesses (step-downs) or bumps (step-ups) to accommodate for varying component dimensions on boards. Step-downs were previously produced by etching or milling prior to laser cutting of the apertures. Stencil shops had to purchase pre-cut step stencils from external suppliers, but now, through a clever use of process parameters, the LPKF StencilLasers can generate step-downs during the cutting process.

LPKF has published a white paper on this development, entitled "Production of Step Stencils with the LPKF StencilLasers G 6080 & P 6060." The paper is available for free download on the company website at www.lpkfusa.com/SMTstencil/Step-stencils/.

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About LPKF

Established in 1976, LPKF Laser & Electronics manufactures milling machines and laser systems used in circuit board and microelectronics fabrication, medical technology, the automotive sector, and the production of solar cells. LPKF's worldwide headquarters is located in Hannover, Germany and its North American headquarters resides near Portland, Ore.