

Update

PCBs in Hours not Days



R^eCET, in collaboration with Sigtronics, can now rapidly deliver circuit boards to electronics businesses in the North East. Single or double-sided boards, with through hole plating and up to 8" (200mm) square, can be produced in hours not days, direct from Gerber data. In addition to speed and convenience the new process is

economical. Even small batches (a single board) can be produced efficiently, making early prototypes a viable product development option.

The new Quickboard printer at R^eCET has already produced fully functional boards that allowed a client to demonstrate a revolutionary product to blue chip clients. Their enthusiasm has allowed the client to proceed with development, confident of the product's reception in the market.

In another application, a series of development prototypes has helped R^eCET to work in parallel with a cluster of small local companies to develop a highly competitive new product quickly.

For more information contact Colin Elrington on: 0191 374 7090 or visit www.sigtronics.co.uk.

3D Displays at Interprise 2001



Interprise 2001 on 12 & 13th March was an opportunity for the world of high technology businesses to visit the North East. R^eCET were in attendance, looking for opportunities to work with companies from the North East and abroad. Central to the R^eCET display was a new low cost 3D LCD monitor from Display Technologies International of

New York. The centre of much attention at the Event, this new display presents dramatic 3D images to the naked eye, without the coloured or polarised glasses that were required for older systems.

Lower cost 3D displays provide a clear opportunity for companies constructing entertainment products. Equally, 3D has great potential in systems where people need to interpret complex visual data quickly and accurately, in the medical field for example.

To see the 3D display and discuss the opportunities it offers please contact Jonathan Williams on: 0191 374 7071 or visit www.recet.co.uk.



DTI Visit R^oCET

Dr Tim Reynoldson of the DTI's Communications and Information Industries Directorate paid a visit to the R^oCET in February. Dr Reynoldson has National responsibility for a number of leading projects and initiatives in the electronics engineering related fields. His visit provided an opportunity to explain the approach of the R^oCET to assisting with technology transfer and role in Regional business-led product and process development projects.

The day provided an opportunity for sharing the variety of project activities that we engage in. Dr Reynoldson and our invited guests were shown the ReCET laboratory resources, product & equipment demonstrators, and business activities underway within the multi-media cluster.



(Left to Right) Dr. Safwat Mansi, University of Northumbria; Peter Rees, MD of Microtima and Dr Tim Reynoldson, DTI

We look forward to developing our relationship with the DTI Directorate, alongside collaboration with other leading Regional and National centres of expertise.

Telematics Seminars

R^oCET has recently staged a series of six seminars looking at the issues surrounding Telematics, on behalf of Derwentside District Council. Primarily for businesses in the Rural Challenge Area, the seminars covered a wide range of issues relating to using the Internet and mobile communication systems to enhance their business.

Award winning local entrepreneur Simon Cohen of Guvnor.com presented at the first event, outlining how he had made a success of putting his business onto the Internet. Key presentations from sponsors Telewest, and from Thus plc addressed basic hardware and software needs for using the Internet and the Web. And specialists from Barclays, Dickinson Dees, and MarketWise Strategies discussed the financial, legal and marketing implications for small to medium sized businesses. These particular seminars proved to be very popular, with lots of discussion between attendees and presenters.



Catherine Davidson, a representative from R^oCET, presenting Colin Dickinson from Prism Tech with his Palm V

Colin Dickinson of Prism Tech, pictured, was the lucky winner of the Palm V draw. His name was drawn from all those delegates returning a questionnaire at any of the events.

R^oCET have selected Third Eye to produce a video, based on this series of seminars. It will provide an opportunity for people who missed the events to catch up on some of the key issues. Videos are available, free of charge, to those in the Rural Challenge Area.

For further information please contact Lynn Bryden at Derwentside District Council on (01207) 218 2393.



What is the State of Electronics in our Region?

R^cCET have recently commissioned CURDS (Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies, University of Newcastle) to work on a study looking at the use and take-up of electronics technologies by North East companies.

A key objective of this study is to identify where companies can use electronics technologies to develop innovative products and processes. We have deliberately adopted a broad definition of 'electronics technologies' and where they might be employed in manufacturing and business processes as well as products. The

study will provide greater understanding about the *true* state of electronics in the North East. It will provide the basis for us to identify how businesses could, and should, be benefiting from electronics technologies. Part of the study will look at how companies have overcome barriers to product and process innovation and where technical offerings and solutions have led towards product and market opportunities.

The study is taking a cross-industry look at the use of electronics with 30 companies from across the Region forming

the research basis. The North East Region already has strong expertise within the electronics applications sector with Fujitsu and Siemens in the past, and now the Filtronics and Atmel plants, but there is a need to understand how existing and emerging technologies can *really* assist a much greater breadth and diversity of companies in our Region to become more competitive.

The study is being undertaken over a six-month period with a late summer report publication.



eZoka

A 'one stop' purchasing service that can cut your fixed costs by up to 25%

R^cCET are pleased to announce that they have teamed up with eZoka ltd to offer significant savings on a broad range of goods and services. These include computer software and hardware from the UK's largest provider Action, utilities services from Enron and Amerada, business travel services, telephones and

fax machines, and insurance from Norwich Union and Woolwich.

The service will be available through the R^cCET home page. Just look for the eZoka logo and double-click!

eZoka also have a free phone number 0800 169 5357 if you do not have access to the Internet yet.

Multimedia Cluster

Mountjoy Studios provides a 'one-stop' shop in the multi media market place. The cluster 'hub' is based in Durham and participant companies are located across the region. Services include media production, digital design, bureau services, stills and video production. To date much of the work has been captured from outside the Region, in particular London. In partnership with R^cCET the cluster is looking to grow and develop its service offerings to businesses and events within the North East.

For further details contact John McNally 0191 374 7558

Key Contacts at the Regional Centre for Electronics Technologies

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What is the Big Deal with Rapid Prototyping ?

- **Speed to market** – faster, larger financial returns
- **Better product quality and reliability** – more customers, greater credibility
- **Design collaboration** – reduced product development costs

R^oCET are holding an event on 26th June looking at the business benefits of Rapid Prototyping.

Please visit our Events page at www.recet.co.uk to find out more, or contact Catherine Davidson on 0191 374 7554.

Tuesday 26th June
9.30a.m. – 1p.m.
(buffet lunch provided)
University of Durham
School of Engineering

ReCET has Moved

We have a new recruit to our Sector Development team. **Vicky Smith** joined R^oCET in January as our new Sector Development Manager, working alongside Roger Tipple assisting small to medium sized businesses develop their products and services. Vicky can be contacted on (0191) 374 3893.

Graeme Bell joined the Technology Transfer team in March as the new Engineering Manager within the R^oCET engineering lab. He can be contacted on (0191) 374 3942.

Jim Beatty has also joined R^oCET as the Centre for Scientific Enterprise Cell Co-ordinator. He is working on identifying ideas within North East University's that can be exploited within commercial markets. He can be contacted on (0191) 374 2559.



As well as gaining three new recruits R^oCET has also moved offices. Still based within Mountjoy Research Centre, our new address is:

Block 3
 Mountjoy Research Centre
 Stockton Road
 Durham
 DH1 3UR

The engineering lab is still located within the School of Engineering at the University of Durham and contact telephone numbers remain the same.

