

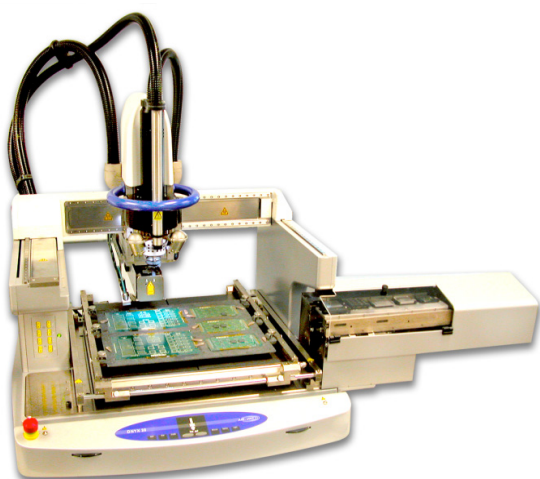
Heraeus and Air-Vac begin joint development of rework material

West Conshohocken, PA - Two top suppliers join forces to develop new solder paste for area array rework. Air-Vac Engineering, pioneers in electronics rework equipment and processes, has teamed with Heraeus Materials Technology, providers of the world's leading dippable solder pastes to create a new class of products that are optimized specifically for rework of BGAs and other area array devices.

Dippable solder pastes combine low viscosity fluxes with very fine solder powders to help them form thin, uniform films on objects like BGA balls that are dipped in them. Fine powders with particle sizes of 25µm and smaller were once considered very difficult to reflow, but advances in powder manufacturing technology have enabled a new generation of process-friendly solder pastes. Originally developed for BGA ball attachment and then popularized in circuit assembly for Package-on-Package (PoP) applications, dippable pastes are now being used in rework operations.

Traditionally, the rework process for BGAs and other area array devices includes manually stenciling solder paste onto the PWB or the device. The manual stencil printing process is not very consistent and is often impeded by neighboring components on the PWB and stencil flatness issues. Because dipping the BGAs in the paste provides more consistent solder volumes, removes the concerns of restricted access, and eliminates the cost of custom stencils for each device, its popularity in rework is rapidly growing.

Development is currently underway at Heraeus' Conshohocken, Pennsylvania R&D center using Air-Vac Engineering's premier ONYX-29 rework system. Working together, the two companies will optimize current dippable paste formulations specifically for the rework process. The new product is scheduled for beta testing later this year.



Air-Vac Engineering's ONYX 29 rework system



Package on Package (PoP) device dipped in solder paste

About Heraeus Materials Technologies

Heraeus Materials Technology, LLC is part of Heraeus, the precious metals and technology group with headquarters in Hanau, a globally active, family-owned company with business areas that include precious metals, sensors, dental and medical products, quartz glass and specialty lighting sources. With a business volume of over €10 billion and more than 11,000 employees in over 100 companies worldwide, Heraeus has been an internationally recognized specialist in materials and precious metals for more than 150 years.

Heraeus Materials Technology is one of the world's leaders in materials used to manufacture high-performance circuitry, semiconductors and surface mount assemblies. Industry leaders in both the automotive and semiconductor markets rely on the Heraeus name when developing and manufacturing their products.

All Heraeus products are supported by in-depth process knowledge, personalized service, and custom solutions for emerging applications.

With multiple R&D sites and a global network of production and support facilities, Heraeus continually introduces new products that meet both local and global requirements. The company's goal is to achieve a level of quality and performance unsurpassed in the industry.

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About Air-Vac Engineering

Our Technology

Air-Vac Engineering develops innovative solutions for almost every type of SMT Rework, Repair, Micro Assembly, Dispensing and Selective Soldering Challenge.

Our Commitment

The ongoing technical service and process support that we provide to our customers is a major value-added component of our total product offering. Our ongoing program of product development and enhancement ensures that Air-Vac will continue to provide innovative leadership in the industries we serve.

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