



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Harry Jin
CheckSum LLC
+1.360.421.0205
Harry.Jin@checksum.com

CheckSum Launches Unique On-board Gang Programmer for Programming Multiple Parts Simultaneously

Innovative Technology Delivers Significant Throughput and Cost Advantages

Las Vegas—March 31, 2009—CheckSum, a leading supplier of part programming and board test systems, announced that it will introduce and demonstrate the world's first on-board gang programming system at the IPC APEX trade show this week.

The new CheckSum™ MultiWriter *pps*™ on-board gang programming system uses proven, patent-pending Concurrent Programming™ technology to simultaneously program up to 24 parts each of up to 16 different types simultaneously—up to 384 chips at one time—typically in seconds instead of the minutes required by conventional programmers. Compared to other part programming solutions, MultiWriter *pps* delivers significant speed and cost advantages when more than four parts already mounted on circuit boards must be programmed in a single pass, making it especially effective for multi-board panels.

“MultiWriter technology has proven so productive compared to conventional device programmers and particularly in-circuit tester-based programmers that numerous existing and potential customers have asked for a standalone system to deploy in their production lines,” stated John VanNewkirk, president of CheckSum.

MultiWriter *pps* (production programming system) is a standalone, on-board programming solution that at once simplifies and speeds the programming process of parts such as microcontrollers and flash memories already mounted on boards. The system also enables manufacturers to program unique data such as serial numbers and date codes in the main programming sequence, a capability that conventional device programmers lack.

“Our customers now have a choice,” VanNewkirk said. “MultiWriter technology featuring Concurrent Programming is available on both CheckSum’s Analyst in-circuit tester and on MultiWriter *pps*, the world’s first production programming system for on-board gang programming. MultiWriter *pps* enables electronics manufacturers to take advantage of the speed and cost improvements offered by MultiWriter technology without purchasing a CheckSum in-circuit tester.”

Product Details

The MultiWriter *pps* system hardware includes an integrated PC, system console, a Lambda 0-60V, 12.5A programmable power supply, the MultiWriter controller, and the popular GenRad 227X fixture interface. The MultiWriter controller cards are housed in the system console. Product software includes the Windows XP-based operating system and MultiWriter control software.

The primary connection between the MultiWriter *pps* system and the part to be programmed is via a bed-of-nails (BON) fixture that connects to appropriate points on the board in order to power up the device and execute programming and verification of the chips on a board or multiple boards. Each board type or multi-board panel has a dedicated fixture and associated programming algorithm. Unlike a typical in-circuit fixture, the bed-of-nails (BON) fixture used on the MultiWriter *pps* contains only those probes necessary for powering the board and contacting the circuit nodes required for programming and verification. The MultiWriter *pps* fixture interconnection interface is compatible with GenRad 227x ICT BON fixtures, a well-known industry standard.

Pricing & Delivery

A MultiWriter *pps* system equipped to program up to 24 each of 4 device family types (96 parts) simultaneously has a U.S. list price of \$25,000. Application package prices—consisting of test fixture, part programming software and documentation—vary depending on the number of parts, size of fixture, etc. For example, the price in the U.S. for a program and fixture for 8 devices on a panel of 8 boards (one device per board) would be approximately \$5,000. CheckSum is taking orders for MultiWriter *pps* now with shipment 90 days ARO.

About CheckSum

Based in Arlington, Washington, CheckSum is a leading supplier of ISP device programming solutions and low-cost circuit board test—including systems, fixtures, and programs—to the electronics manufacturing industry. CheckSum has been delivering reliable, cost-effective, and flexible test solutions to OEMs and contract manufacturers for over 20 years. With an installed base of over 3,000 test systems at more than 200 companies in over 40 countries, CheckSum helps customers ranging from automotive electronics manufacturers to global EMS providers reduce their total test and manufacturing costs and increase their manufacturing margins. For more information, visit www.checksum.com.

###