

Modular Manufacturing in LED Lighting

January 31, 2018 GE Global Research Stan Weaver, Ramanujam Ramabhadran

Modular Manufacturing

Sensical design and incorporation of standardized assemblies into a product

Need

- Aggressive competition on a global scale
- Shorter product life cycles
- Rapidly changing market conditions
- Consumer customization
- Changing regulatory requirements
- Capacity utilization

Industries

- Automotive
- Computer/Cell Phone
- Construction
- Software
- LED lighting

Faster, Better, Cheaper



Modular Manufacturing and its Benefits

Features

- High degree of automation
- Module heavy vs system test
- Ease of integration, reduced labor
- Quick product change over
- Fewer building blocks

Benefits

- Reduced cost
- Reduced development time parallel
- Reduced inventory
- High product mix on fewer lines
- Failsafe assembly
- Increased product reliability, reduced maintenance



Rapid circuit board assembly





Scalable designs

Simplified Agile Manufacturing

Modular wiring



Outdoor Luminaire Manufacturing Today



Modular Assembly Vision

Light Engine

- Reconfigurable engines
- Plug and play optics
- Origami optics
- Custom lumens, CCT, CRI

Assembly and Casting

- Full space utilization
- Reduced enclosure weight
- Sectionalized assembly
- Hybrid composite enclosure

Wiring and Controls

- Socketed/connector approach
- Common Bussed Architecture
- Flex-circuit interconnect
 - Wireless/analytics sensing



Automated assembly driver Standardized power blocks

- Integrated surge protection
- Wide input and output range









Lighting is a high mix application.

Needs building block, bussed, approach, with repetitive blocks (driver, light engines) for higher lumens



Example: Automated Module Assembly – LED Driver



Increased U.S. competitivenes Non-SMT components challenges

Future- All SMT or Auto Placed

100%

Benefits 30% cost

reduction

Higher reliability

MOSFET: thermal

SMT Parts

30%

- Large film cap
- Large Electrolytic cap
- Larger magnetics .
- MOV: 347/480V

Factors to Consider for Automation and Modularity

- Smaller power blocks, smaller magnetics on tape and reel
- Increase SMT component percentage to increase throughput
- Integrate external and internal SPD (surge)
- Wide band gap devices to handle voltage and input range efficiently
- No potting, alternative cheaper coatings minimize time and labor
- Modular connectors (SMT or automated placement)



Summary of Enablers

- Standardized, modular units with highly automated assembly
- Minimized modular unit count with optimal functionality
- Customizable building blocks for Light engines and drivers
- Modular interconnects Socketed, connectorized, bussed architecture
- Sectionalized/functionalized composite enclosures
- Future : Additive methods- rapid prototyping of high complexity components with heavy labor content

The approaches to, and advantages of modular design/manufacturing are numerous! Be smart, consider tradeoffs.



Questions?



Thank you!