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The SkyWire



News, Announcements and Educational Information for Skyworks Employees

Mexicali Is the First Skyworks Site to Achieve ISO 9001:2000 Certification



Quality Engineer Guillermo Montijo (right) serves as an internal auditor to review a system's conformity to ISO 9001:2000 standards in preparation for a visit from an independent registrar. Operator Manuela Perez (left) demonstrates that the system is consistent with the documentation.

The Mexicali facility has achieved certification on ISO 9001:2000, the most current international standard used to demonstrate that a company's products will consistently conform to the expectations of customers. The certification capped a demanding, seven-month-long effort by employees in every job responsibility to first prepare for an

independent registrar's visit, then perform seamlessly during the audit. Such an achievement usually takes a year for a facility similar in the size.

ISO is the International Organization for Standardization, a worldwide federation of national standards bodies from more than 140 countries. Use of the ISO 9001:2000 standard is common in the business world and required or desired by most top-tier customers and already followed by most of Skyworks' competitors. *"Having the latest ISO certification helps to validate quality and customer service,"* says Nien-Tsu Shen, Vice President of Quality for Skyworks. *"In today's competitive market, these are key differentiators."*

ISO 9001:2000 differs from the previous standard in its increased and continual focus on management practices, effective improvement processes and customer requirements. The Mexicali facility was certified on all areas of the standard except design and development, which is not expected for its type of operation (final test and assembly).

Karl Mentzel, Vice President of Skyworks Manufacturing expressed pride in Mexicali's team accomplishments. *"I continue to be amazed at their focus on continuous improvement and their drive to be the very best in everything they do,"* he says.

The representative of DNV, the registrar that conducted the audit, was also impressed: *"The quality management system used in Mexicali has really led to*

huge improvements in just the last six months," commented Gustavo Amezcua, DNV Lead Auditor. *"In fact, the results of this audit were outstanding."*

Mexicali's top three priorities -- outstanding customer service, exceptional quality, and cost leadership -- align perfectly with ISO 9001-2001, according to Oscar Sanchez, Manager of Manufacturing Quality in Mexicali. One of the site's key initiatives -- the Six Sigma defect elimination methodology -- also supports adherence to the standard.

Preparing for the certification also had an added benefit of further improving the Mexicali operation. According to Oscar, documents used in the Mexicali plant were reduced by 30%, while at the same time employees were empowered to address customer issues based on specific actions that were developed for the audit.



Oscar Sanchez, Quality Manager, Mexicali

The goal for Skyworks is to obtain ISO 9001:2000 certification for all other major sites by July of 2003. Pre-assessments are scheduled in April and May for Newbury Park, Woburn and Irvine. Employees at those sites in operations, R&D and key business functions can look forward to more information about the auditing process and how they can prepare for it

First Fully Matched 450 MHz CDMA PA Module Unveiled

Skyworks has introduced the industry's first fully matched, power amplifier (PA) module for CDMA and wireless local loop handsets that operate on the 450-460 MHz frequency band. According to EMC, a wireless market research firm, subscriber growth rates for this frequency are expected to increase from 63,000 users in 2002 to 9.2 million in 2007. *"Handset manufacturers worldwide can choose Skyworks' proven, field-tested PAs for their mobile handsets supporting Eastern Europe, Indonesia and potentially China,"* says said Klaus Buehring, Skyworks' Vice President Power Amplifier Products.

Also available on Skylink. For internal distribution only. For questions or comments, contact ed.mauss@skyworksinc.com or call VPN-231-4816.

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