Volume 1, No. 4
October 23, 1985

Specialized electronic components at Paris show

In a marketplace dominated by large international firms, Canadian electronic component manufacturers have developed highly selected and specialized product lines for all types of electronics applications, including computers, telecommunications equipment, aerospace and defence products.

Nine of Canada's leading components manufacturers will be representing the industry and displaying their innovative products and services in the Canadian exhibit at the SALON DES COMPOSANTS ÉLECTRONIQUES 85, to be held at the Parcs des Expositions, Paris-Nord, Villepinte, from November 4 to 8. The exhibit is being sponsored by the Department of External Affairs.

Many products

A wide range of electronic components will be presented in Canada's display, including multilayer printed circuit board technology in which Canadian firms were pioneers in the field. Precision quartz crystals used for high frequency signal generation will also be presented, along with a number of electronic metering devices.

In addition, there will be a variety of power regulation devices, including potentiometers for electronic controls, vitreous enameled wire-wound resistors with power dissipations of up to 500 watts, switch mode power supplies, and DC/DC converters. A selection of photoelectronic devices for light detection or control will also be shown, along with high resolution, easy-to-use computerized message display signs.

The Canadian companies that will be at the trade fair, ÉLECTRONIQUES 85, are:

- Croven Crystals Limited of Whitby, Ontario – custom designed quartz crystals;
- Electronic Hardware Specialties Limited of Toronto, Ontario – vitreous enameled wire-wound resistors;
- Fishercast Division of Fisher Gauge Limited of Peterborough, Ontario – zinc die castings design and production;
- Harris-Bass Electronics Limited of Toronto – metering products;
- Helix Circuits Inc. of Montreal, Quebec – design and manufacture of multilayer printed circuit boards;
- Mini-Peripherals Inc. of Ottawa, Ontario – high resolution computerized message display signs;
- Precision Electronic Components Limited of Toronto – custom or off-the-shelf potentiometers;
- Silonex Inc. of Montreal – photocells and photodiodes; and
- Tectrol Inc. of Downsview, Ontario – switch mode power supplies and DC/DC converters.

Economy booster

The Canadian components industry, combined with the electronics industry it supplies, is an important contributor to the Canadian economy both in terms of employment and dollar value. Employment in electronics has increased steadily over the past number of years, and is currently over 75 000.

The total value of goods produced has also risen consistently and the increase in exports has been dramatic. Between 1980 and 1983, exports of electronic components increased by more than 50 per cent. The total value of goods produced was over $5.6 billion in 1983, with exports of $3.5 billion.

Canada's largest market is the United States, followed by Britain and France. About 60 per cent of Canadian electronic products and 80 per cent of electronic components were exported to the US in 1983.

Components of success

The Canadian electronic components industry has developed a major world presence in three sectors of the electronics industry: telecommunications, defence and aerospace.

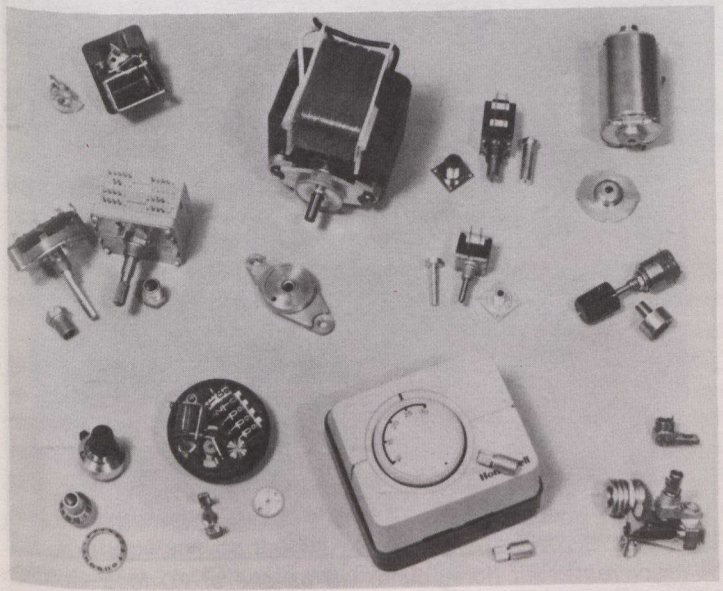
In the telecommunications sector, Canada provides most of its domestic requirements in a market that was worth more than $2 billion in 1983. Telecommunications also shows a large trade surplus, with exports reaching $1.25 billion that same year.

In both the defence and aerospace industries, Canada has designed and manufactured a variety of products, including high frequency crystals, circuit boards, electronic controls, and power regulation equipment.

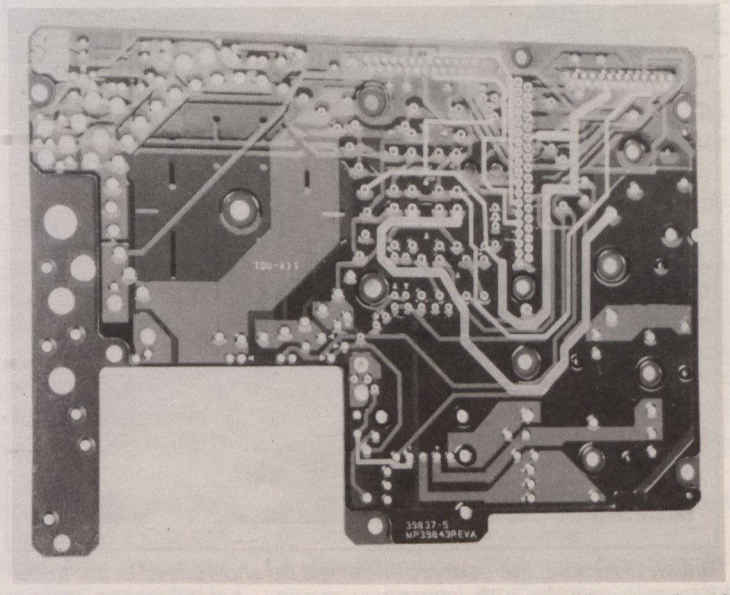
International involvement

During October, Canada's export trade month, electronic components manufacturers have been participating in a number of international trade fairs. They include:

- October 4-10 – Electronics '85 in Copenhagen, Denmark
- October 17-22 – Japan Electronics Show in Osaka, Japan
- October 20 - November 2 – Electric Indonesia Show in Jakarta, Indonesia



Zinc castings from Fishercast are made using a unique single cavity casting technique that eliminates trimming.



Helix Circuits Inc. designs and manufactures multilayer printed circuit boards that can have as many as 36 layers.