Take Action and Support the Department of Defense Printed Circuit Board Executive Agent

The DoD PCB Executive Agent program is intended to address many important issues that will ultimately assist the industry and help your company. Although Congress directed the DoD to create this program, the program is unfunded. Without government funding, the PCB Executive Agent program cannot begin to address the important tasks that will ensure the future supply of electronic interconnect products to the military.

5 Simple Actions That You Can Do:

1. Send a letter to your member of Congress
   • You can modify a sample letter (below) and deliver it to your member of Congress via standard mail.

2. E-mail a letter to your member of Congress
   • You can modify a sample letter (below) and deliver it to your member of Congress via standard e-mail.

3. Call your legislators office
   • Use the talking points and fact sheet to help you when you talk with your legislator’s office.

4. Schedule a meeting with your legislator
   • A personal visit with your representative is the best way to deliver your viewpoint, even if that visit is with a staff person. You can arrange a visit either in the district office or in Washington.

5. Invite your legislator for a tour of your facility
   • A tour of your facility is an excellent opportunity for you to build a strong relationship with your representative. Your representative and their staffers will appreciate the good product you make and the good work you do. They’ll be much more likely to keep you in mind in the future and to understand how pending legislation or regulations might affect you. The legislator will also like a plant tour because it puts them in touch with more voters. IPC will gladly help you set up a plant tour.
FUNDING FOR THE DoD PCB EXECUTIVE AGENT

- Introduce yourself, your company and number of employees

Talk About The Issue

- Printed circuit boards (PCBs) are the backbone of all electronics
- Intense global competition and the Department of Defense (DoD) increased use of commercial-off-the-shelf electronics has resulted in:
  - A reduction in the number of U.S. PCB companies by 50 percent over the last 10 years
  - A loss of high-quality U.S. jobs
  - A reduction of the number of U.S. PCB manufacturers able to meet future DoD innovative technology needs
- DoD electronics may be susceptible to counterfeit parts and unreliable components
- In the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act (Section 256 of Public Law 110-417), Congress directed the DoD to create a PCB Executive Agent (EA).
- Congress mandated that the EA develop a PCB roadmap, or strategic plan, to ensure DoD has access to:
  - PCB manufacturing capabilities
  - Technical expertise needed to meet future DoD PCB requirements
- The EA is also directed to develop trust requirements for PCBs used in defense systems
- The PCB Executive Agent is critically needed for the long term survivability of my company and its ability to support DoD requirements
- The PCB Executive Agent program has not been funded by DoD
  - Cannot begin to start addressing Congressional mandates without funding
  - My company is will indirectly benefit by funding the PCB Executive Agent program

Tell Your Congressman What They Can Do To Help

- I am working with fellow PCB manufacturers and our trade association, IPC, to obtain direct support from our elected officials
- Will you support ‘plus up’ funding for the PCB EA program

If They Say Yes, Then Continue

- I will be providing you a draft letter requesting ‘plus up’ funding
Office of the Honorable Senator/Representative
United States Senate/House of Representatives
ADDRESS LINE 1
Washington, DC 20515/20510

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of NAME OF COMPANY located in CITY, STATE, I am writing to express support to provide start up funding for the Department of Defense (DoD) Printed Circuit Board Executive Agent in FY 2011. The Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Executive Agent was established by Congress to uphold national security by facilitating the U.S. electronic interconnect industry’s ability to meet DoD PCB requirements and maintain leading-edge technology capabilities within the U.S. PCB industry. The PCB Executive Agent program is important for my company to remain globally competitive and continue to provide high quality jobs in the United States. Unfortunately, the PCB Executive Agent program is currently not funded.

The U.S. is heading to an undesirable situation in which the U.S. electronics industry may not be capable of supporting DoD needs. Global competition has led to the movement of commercial and defense production offshore to emerging markets. The result is a significant reduction of the number U.S. PCB manufacturers able to meet future DoD leading edge technology PCB needs. The affect of these trends is DoD’s susceptibility to counterfeit parts, unreliable components, and potential for a lack of technological expertise to meet future DoD requirements. If measures are not taken to address the U.S. PCB industry’s ability to meet future DoD needs, the DoD may soon be forced to rely solely on overseas manufacturing for sensitive military electronics.

The PCB Executive Agent program will affect many companies in addition to my own. Many of these companies are members of IPC — Association Connecting Electronics Industries®, a global trade association representing all facets of the electronics industry. IPC’s many member facilities in the State are key components in the electronics industry supply chain and are interdependent with numerous electronics companies located in the State employing thousands of Americans. The outcome of the PCB Executive Agent program will affect my company, all electronics companies within our state, and the U.S. electronics industry.

Congress must ensure that the PCB Executive Agent program is funded, operational, and carrying out the mandates specified by Congress. Congress has recognized the potential consequences of the continuing reduction of U.S. printed board defense specific manufacturing and technological capabilities by mandating the creation of a PCB Executive Agent in Section 256 of P.L. 110-417. Congress must now ensure that the PCB Executive Agent receives funding support and carries out its mission.

Your support of support start up funding for the PCB Executive Agent program in FY 2011 is greatly appreciated. Ron Chamrin, IPC manager of government relations, will contact your staff and provide you with additional information. He can also be reached at ronchamrin@ipc.org and 703.522.0255. If I can provide any additional information or be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE BLOCK