



ASSOCIATION CONNECTING
ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES*

3000 Lakeside Drive, Suite 309 S, Bannockburn, IL 60015-1249

Tel. 847-615-7100 Fax 847-615-7105

www.ipc.org

August 16, 2005

Mr. Jerry Bowen
CBS News Correspondent
CBS Television Network
7800 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Dear Mr. Bowen:

On August 10, 2005, CBS Evening News ran a news story titled "Red Planet Turning Green." Within the segment, you mention that a greenhouse gas, octafluoropropane, might one day be used to stimulate life on the planet Mars. While a fascinating subject, you go on to say that this particular gas is a by-product of circuit board production.

As the media relations manager of IPC – Association Connecting Electronics Industries, an association representing the printed circuit board and electronics manufacturing services industries, I wanted to point out the error in your statement. Octafluoropropane is neither used in printed circuit board production, nor is it a by-product of printed circuit board production. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with IPC conducted an extensive study of chemicals used in printed circuit board production and octafluoropropane is not among the chemicals used. For your reference, the report, "Printed Wiring Board Pollution Prevention and Control Technology, Analysis of Updated Survey Results" is available through EPA's Design for the Environment website at www.epa.gov/dfc.

In fact, octafluoropropane is used by the semiconductor and optoelectronics industries and is used primarily in conjunction with oxygen in semiconductor applications as an etching material for silicon wafers. It can also be found as a component of refrigerant.

Your researchers and segment producer for this story obviously mixed up these very different industries in the electronics supply chain and ultimately provided your viewers with wrong information. If you'd like to discuss the matter further, please contact me. I would be happy to put you in contact with our environmental, health and safety director to shed some further light on the subject.

Sincerely,

Sandy Gentry
Media Relations Manager
IPC – Association Connecting Electronics Industries

To view August 10, 2005 CBS Evening News segment go to:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/08/10/eveningnews/main770044.shtml>