

Outsourcing Subassembly Design-to-Production Offers Time-to-Market Advantages and Cost Savings

Key to Success is finding an experienced local team member

This Tech Bulletin provides an overview how outsourcing key elements of the design and production process can enable manufacturers to flexibly expand their capabilities to accomplish specialized requirements while maximizing time-to-market and minimizing overhead costs.

Topics addressed in this Tech Bulletin include:

- Outsourcing Overview
- What to look for in an Outsourced Design-to-Manufacturing Partner
- Best Practices in Design for Manufacturing (DFM)
- Why Local Teaming is Important

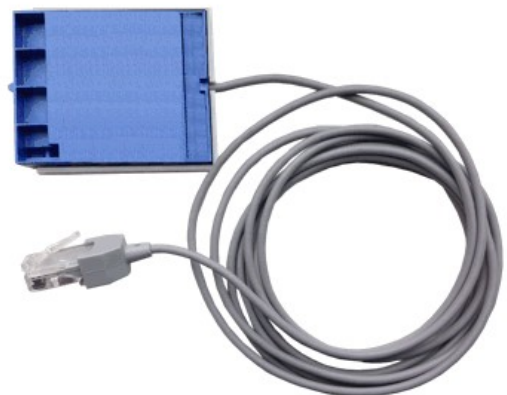
Outsourcing Overview

In today's fast moving and highly competitive environments, time-to-market demands are shrinking even as the need to continually deliver new product designs is escalating. This makes it particularly difficult for design and production organizations to keep up with the changing demands while also keeping costs in line. Many companies are finding creative ways to leverage outside partners who can provide complete design-to-production support for targeted subassemblies and modules.

Choosing the right partner with both the qualifications to deliver and the commitment to your success is the key element for achieving the desired results. Your outsourcing partner also needs to have the experience and flexibility for "fitting into your team" and meshing with your internal staff to assure everything stays on track with your overall production goals.

Whether your industry focus is medical devices, aerospace, communications, industrial systems or consumer products, it is critical to team with a partner that can understand and meet industry-specific standards and quality requirements.

The following sections address just a few of the key considerations that should help guide the selection of an outsourcing partner to meet your needs. .

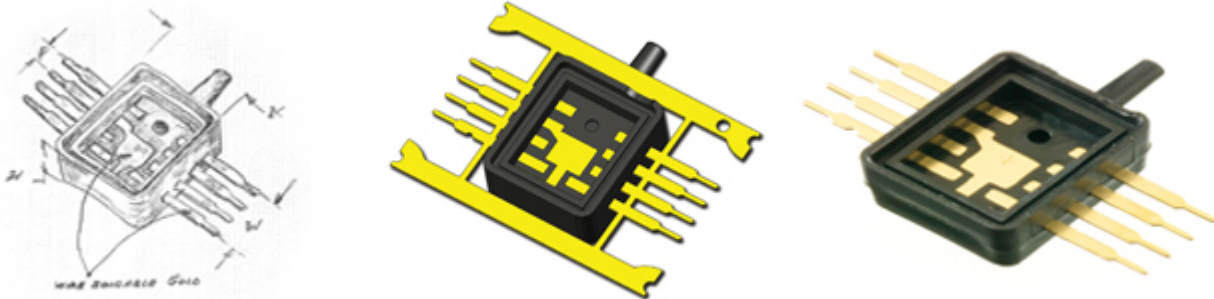


What to Look for in an Outsourced Design-to-Manufacturing Partner

To achieve the desired objectives your outside partner needs to bring the specific skills, knowledge and experience to get the job done – along with the flexibility to mesh with your internal team. Some of the key attributes include:

- Hands-on approach to concept and analysis
- Broad design and manufacturing expertise
- Compliance with quality standards such as ISO 9001:2008 and ISO/TS 16949:2009
- Experience with your specific industry's quality and standards requirements
- Flexibility to mesh with your internal team across multi-functional areas
- Proven track record of successes with subassembly design and manufacturing
- Ability to deliver rapid prototyping and fast production ramp-up
- Adaptable engagement models, ranging from full turn-key services to consultative design

In effect, your outsourced partner should be able to come in at any point in the design-to-production process where you need help and be able to quickly deliver tailored results that mesh with your overall production environment.



Best Practices in Design for Manufacturing

Best practices in Design for Manufacturing (DFM) call for involvement of all key participants to assure that the design and production processes achieve the product specifications and also provide optimal production efficiency. With outsourced subassembly projects, the partner's DFM process needs to take into account your existing production environment to ensure that all delivered products mesh seamlessly into the overall production flow.

Why Local Teaming is Important

While today's markets are inherently global, efficient production can often benefit from taking a "local" approach to partnering. With the goal of having your outsourcing partner be an integral part of your team, it can be very helpful to have close geographic proximity between your internal team and the partner's designers and production facility. Close teaming not only can help avoid any problems from arising, it also enables quick resolution of any emergent issues before they can impact production.

The bottom line is outsourcing design-to-production for specific subassemblies can be an excellent way to expand your capabilities, lower your costs and accelerate time-to-market.

The key to success is choosing the right partner.

For more information regarding Interplex Nascal partnering capabilities, visit www.interplex.com/nascal or contact David Timmons at 858-836-1083 or David.Timmons@us.interplex.com