

MEK AOI Launches New and Unique Inspection Head Technology



Mek Europe BV, formerly known as Marantz Business Electronics, recently launched new additions to its line up of AOI systems. The new FDAz inspection head enables 9 Camera AOI featuring Tilt-Shift & Telecentric optics with automatic Z-axis.

One of several configurations within Mek's PowerSpector series, the FDAz features significant new capabilities and operating benefits. One top camera alone is rarely enough to get optimal visual access to all objects of today's and tomorrow's PCBs, so Mek employs 9 camera technology for enhanced visual coverage on objects hidden for single orthogonal cameras. The nine cameras (one orthogonal and eight side capturing) are used simultaneously, minimizing inspection times.

8 Side cameras in 10 μ resolution with Tilt-Shift optics technology ... familiar in architectural photography... reduce image distortion to enable the best capture possible. A moveable head in Z-Axis brings objects into optimal focus and position, independent of PCB thickness or warping. In combination with the HD 18.75 μ or 10 μ resolution top camera with Telecentric optics and unique multiplexed 8x CameraLink side camera technology, unprecedented defect visibility is achieved.

Side cameras are often used for defect verification, but Mek side cameras are also able to automatically inspect components and find defects. Increasingly popular 45 degree space-saving circuitry designs can now be inspected with 10 μ m resolution side cameras. The exact 45° angled wide view provides visual access to points that were previously thought impossible to view. Mek side view sensors support inspection,

classification and repair along with an automatic 8-fold Microscope (50x) function for visualization of defects.

Jeremy Saise, Mek Technical Director further explained, “Everyone’s goal is to minimize human mistakes. Our sensors also provide high quality images that aid operators in the defects classification process, and those same images are stored in a database. Imagine having fingertip access to all products with 8x views of every component.”

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About MEK Europe BV

A former division of Marantz well known for its high quality Audio/Video products, MEK Japan (Marantz Electronics Kabushiki Kaisha), developed its first AOI system in 1994. Developed to inspect PCB assemblies for correct component placement and soldering, the company’s original AOI system was designed for use in Marantz factories. Proving to be a highly successful, cost-effective alternative to traditional human inspection, MEK developed its first generation commercial system in 1996. With a steadily growing installed base, MEK Japan and its European headquarters, MEK Europe BV, have sold over 5000 units worldwide to date. Now well established as a leading force in AOI technologies, the company recently launched a 5D post-print SPI system which combines 3D and 2D image processing methodologies to deliver unprecedented defect detection.

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