



# THE FINAL TEST REPORT



Vol. 12 No. 04

April 2001

## FOCUS ON GALAXY



Ireland-based Galaxy was founded in June 1999 by Bernard Lejeune and his son, Philippe Lejeune. Bernard had been a Teradyne employee in France before founding Galaxy. Philippe Lejeune was the founder of France-based Softlink, which offers add-on products for Teradyne's pc board testers - including replacement processors as for Teradyne's M365 CPU/controller.



Galaxy is reportedly in the process of acquiring Softlink. That company's products had been represented in the U.S. by Test Advantage in Phoenix, AZ until October of last year. (Neither company would comment on why that rep agreement had been terminated - saying they had signed a "very tight confidentiality agreement.")

Galaxy has recently begun offering its *Optimizer* software in the U.S. According to Scott Winick - who heads *Optimizer* marketing in the U.S. - "Semiconductor test programs are written to accommodate the variations that occur in manufacturing and test environments.

As a result, the programs often test devices to satisfy the slowest common denominator, thereby wasting valuable tester time and reducing potential throughput. Ideally, test programs should be designed to adjust to variations in production environments such as different testers, handlers, probers, load boards, lot variations, etc."

Galaxy claims that its *Optimizer Suite* - through the application of what it describes as "low risk statistical process control and optimization theories" - test program parameters are initially tuned to the optimum point.

Then they are dynamically adjusted to provide the shortest test times which are possible while maintaining correlation with respect to yield. Galaxy claims that "this automatic optimization generates "a 5 percent to 45 percent test time improvement, with no effect on yield."

Galaxy said that it has extended this concept to cover an entire factory floor with a system designed to track what it claims are "tens of thousands of parameters in thousands of test programs, running on hundreds of

testers to keep an entire 'park' of testers running at optimum."

The *Optimizer Suite* includes:

- *Optimizer Workshop*: an engineering tool which automatically adjusts certain parameters found in any test program so as to find the optimum test time performance level.
- *Optimizer Production* module, a series of software libraries that perform the dynamic adjustment of test parameters on a per wafer or per lot basis.
- *Optimizer Server*: performs administration tasks such as license activation and data collection.

Currently, Galaxy's *Optimizer* is available for Teradyne's A5xx, Catalyst and Tiger test systems and as such, is targeted at mixed-signal and analog test programs. It applies to both existing test programs and to new test programs. However, Galaxy said that it expects to make *Optimizer* available for other testers in the "near future."

Although Galaxy won't say which companies are using *Optimizer*, sources outside the company have confirmed that ST Microsystems has been its 'beta' site and is presently using the program in production.

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