SILICON FOREST ELECTRONICS

### Jay's Journal: Building the "Box" at SFE

At Silicon Forest Electronics, we often hear the term "board house" about our operations, implying that we only build circuit board assemblies... but we are far more diverse than that!   One of our primary capabilities is "box build".

One might ask, "Jay, when you say "Box Build".... are you really building boxes?"......   Well, the answer is yes and no! We have multiple projects in motion at Silicon Forest Electronics where we <u>integrate</u> printed circuit board assemblies into higher level enclosures, which may include machined housings, composites, sheet metal, or plastics.   They are not simple cardboard enclosures, and require a specific level of attention.

The smallest "box build" that we manufacture is a capsule used in life-sciences research, and contains a very small circuit board assembly and wiring that is "integrated" into a very small plastic housing.
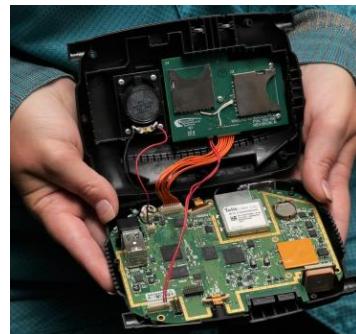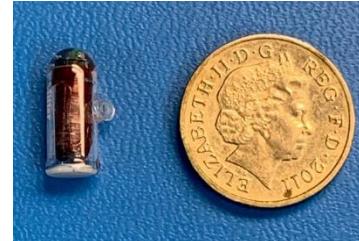
We have manufactured a variety of box build assemblies that are "medium sized" for customers, where the integration of multiple circuit board assemblies occurs, and we provide testing to make sure that the interaction between each sub-assembly performs to the specification of customers.

By contrast, we have a large scale "box build" in process now! It's almost 2 feet long and nearly a foot high and <u>each unit</u> contains 21 circuit boards, 37 cables and 15 connectors (sorry no photo, controlled item)!

When we perform a box build for customers, our approach to manufacturing is very important. First, because of the unique nature of materials, we "lean" the manufacturing flow by developing a cell that eliminates the need for kitting materials - it's a waste to "kit" materials if they are only going to one location. Secondly, we embed testing into the cell, so that the feedback loop is within the cell... we want to know if the modules are functional at the point of assembly.

Our goal is to make a Positive & Profound Impact for Customers, and one way to do that is by... "building the box!"

Contributed by:
Jay Schmidt
Exec. VP/General Manager
jay.schmidt@si-forest.com

6204 E.18th St.
Vancouver, WA
98661
P: 360-694-2000
P:1-888-601-1SFE
F: 360-737-3181
www.siliconforestelectronics.com