



APEX 2018 Booth #1518

Europlacer Reveals Atom Platform at APEX.

Europlacer Americas will use the IPC's 2018 APEX Expo to launch its new Atom placement platform in the US. The all-new Atom range includes the super-flexible Atom 3 and high-speed Atom 4 configurations. Europlacer will demonstrate an Atom 4 machine on its APEX booth #1518 – a system capable of six-figure placement rates.

Over five years in development, Atom is the new Europlacer flagship. Atom configurations sit at the top of the company's range of platform products, yet remain complementary to and compatible with all existing models across the past two decades. In short, the new platform combines high speed placement capability with Europlacer's legendary placement flexibility and accuracy.

At the core of the new high-speed capability is the pioneering Pulsar pipette head. Each head features eight nozzles handling components from 01005 profiles up to 13mm² in size, and delivering the same high accuracy for which the company is famed. Designed to be completely maintenance-free, Pulsar heads use advanced titanium and titanium nitride materials, and self-lubricating diamond nanocoatings.

The new Atom 4 is equipped with four independent axes, each fitted with a high-speed Pulsar head to deliver raw performance at placement rates up to **104,000 parts per hour**. The Atom 3 machine combines a pair of Pulsar heads on independent axes with Europlacer's 8-nozzle turret head on a third axis to offer the perfect blend of high speed and ultimate flexibility for devices up to 99mm x 99mm dimensions. Placement rates for Atom 3 are up to **65,000 parts per hour**.

All Atom platforms feature new robust X-Y gantries driven by advanced linear motors with linear encoders for positional accuracy. Precision is retained at the high acceleration speeds demanded by six-figure placement speeds by deploying synchronised X-axis linear motor drives at each end of the Y-gantry beam. This ingenuity eliminates lateral flex to allow extruded gantries to be used, reducing mass by 30% and permitting acceleration to increase from 1.2G to 2.0G. In addition, Pulsar heads fly

over strategically-positioned imaging cameras during placement, removing the need for vision technology on the head and reducing moving Z-axis mass to just 50 grams. In turn, this allows Z-axis accelerations of 4G for exceptional speed and precise placement force control.

In keeping with its sibling iineo+ platform, the Atom range maintains Europlacer's industry-leading on-machine inventory with 264 x 8mm reel capacity. The addition of an interchangeable 30-tray sequencer fits onto the machine similarly to a tape and reel cart, with no compromise to feeder capacity or board size.

The Atom platform is also the first to deploy the company's patented intelligent conveyor that eliminates physical board stops. Instead, these are software programmable to automatically determine the best stop position for optimum pick-to-place head travel paths, maximizing placement rates and throughput.

"When previewed privately to VIPs in September and unveiled at Munich in November, our new Atom platform was immediately recognized as a game changer for existing customers and the wider surface mount industry," says John Perrotta, President of Europlacer Americas. "There is no longer any compromise between sustainable high-speed placement rates and flexible mounting accuracy. Atom customers can have both, taking advantage of placement speed and flexibility on one platform to restructure productivity across their surface mount assembly operation."

Visitors to APEX 2018 can see the new Atom 4 machine launched on the Europlacer booth #1518. APEX runs from February 27 to March 01 at the San Diego Convention Center.

More information on the new Atom platform at www.europlacer.com/atom

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Image attached: The new high-speed Atom 4 placement platform. (file name: Atom 4bk-002.jpg).



(thumbnail for reference).

About Blakell Europlacer

The Blakell Europlacer Group comprises the Speedprint Technologies, Europlacer, and Blakell Europlacer Distribution business units. All three are active and pre-eminent in the electronic circuit board assembly sector with advanced product and service solutions for electronics manufacturers in the UK and globally. Speedprint Technologies is a provider of screen printing equipment used in surface mount assembly processes. Europlacer is a provider of surface mount component placement equipment. Blakell Europlacer Distribution augments the provision of screen printing and pick & place platforms in the UK with a range of associated equipment, including AOI, reflow and PCB handling.

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