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Richard Penny, Auto Insert Senior Engineer,
Axiom Manufacturing Services

axiom
MANUFACTURING SERVICES



Altus helps world-class provider of contract manufacturing services to clean up!

Axiom Manufacturing Services is a leading provider of Contract Electronics Manufacturing (CEM) based in South Wales. The company develops supply chain solutions that enable customers' products to get to market faster, at an optimised total acquisition cost and in conjunction with unsurpassed levels of quality.

Axiom is a company founded on going the extra mile for all its customers, helping them to exceed and not just meet expectations, whilst offering a flexibility of service tailored to each individual customer with technologies, processes and people. Operating in a 300,000 sq. ft. bespoke facility, Axiom works with many sectors including high-end industrial, medical, defence and cyber security and aerospace. All of these industries demand the very highest quality and cutting edge technology range from build-to-print, to customised design engagement.

By carefully monitoring technology, market and customer trends, Axiom positions itself at the forefront of the markets it serves. Through continuous investment in high technology equipment and development of capabilities, Axiom offers its customers a broad range of competencies across the spectrum of CEM.

Challenge

To find a PCB stencil cleaning system that used the most advanced technology to improve cleaning efficiency and ensure all stencils were of the highest quality.

Solution

Install a stencil cleaning system from Kolb, leaders in cleaning technology and 'manufacturer of a comprehensive range of efficient water based cleaning systems for stencils, PCBs and maintenance applications.

Benefits:

- Update older cleaning system with the latest technology
- Install a system which ensures even the most complex stencils are clean
- Easily removes contamination from the stencil
- Efficient and reliable
- Cost-effective cleaning
- Compact and easy to use



Axiom operate from a
300,000 sq. ft. facility



Axiom recently invested in new Kolb stencil cleaning
having consulted with Altus Group

Kolb PSE 300 VL-RS

Kolb PSE 300 VL-RS advanced stencil cleaning system was selected for its many benefits. The system focuses on all essential criteria for a qualified cleaning process which is also cost-effective.

The system provides an extremely compact first-rate performance PowerSpray® with very short cycle times (<10 min.) due to an intelligent 3-step process with patented high performance supercharger drying.

PSE 300 VL-RS delivers first-class cleaning of screens, stencils, PumpPrints, misprints and solder frames, an important process for reproducible quality in production, the reduction of expensive production stand-stills and as well for high customer satisfaction.

Upgrading the Stencil Cleaning Systems

To ensure it continuously uses the most-advanced technology and systems, Axiom recently invested in Kolb stencil cleaning having consulted with Altus Group.

Richard Penny, Auto Insert Senior Engineer, Axiom Manufacturing Services, explains why the upgrade was made. *"Our previous cleaning machine was 20 years old and the company supporting it had ceased trading. It was also important that we moved forward with the newest technologies available to ensure our customers always receive the very best high-quality products."*

"Axiom strives for continuous improvements in all processes, the engineering team in the SMT and Auto Insert department are always looking to keep up with technology with new investments in machinery and this is strongly supported by the company directors."

Kolb Cleaning Technology

Altus Group worked closely with Axiom to find the best cleaning solution for the company's CEM technology produced at the site. Kolb was found to be the ideal fit. The company has a range of chemistry solutions, optimised for cleaning solder paste from fine and ultra-fine stencil apertures, PCB cleaners and even heavy duty maintenance cleaners for flux removal from flux management systems.

Kolb design and manufacture a range of class leading machines, created from the ground up for optimum performance, high-quality and reliable operation in 24/7 production environments. Importantly the systems are energy efficient, environmentally friendly, cost-effective and extremely efficient.

Why Kolb?

With other stencil cleaning options available in the marketplace Axiom were asked why they chose Kolb. *"We looked at other cleaning systems,"* explained Richard Penny. *"We were originally looking for a PCB wash and Kolb where very supportive installing a trial machine onsite for a short period to showcase the capabilities. Although we did not make the investment at that time, we were extremely impressed with the system and so with the help of Altus we decided to use Kolb for a new stencil wash. We now have a stencil cleaning system that we are not afraid to show off to our customers."*

Why Altus?

Axiom has a number of solutions from Altus in conventional assembly and goods in, but this was the first system purchased for the Auto Insert department. When asked what the support was like from Altus during the evaluation and decision-making process the response was positive.

"The team at Altus have been excellent. Firstly during the machines justification and then during the system's installation. They have also quickly responded to any queries and questions we have come across during the start-up period."

"Axiom would like to thank Altus for their efforts on the project and hopefully this will lead to a long and successful partnership between us," concluded Richard Penny.