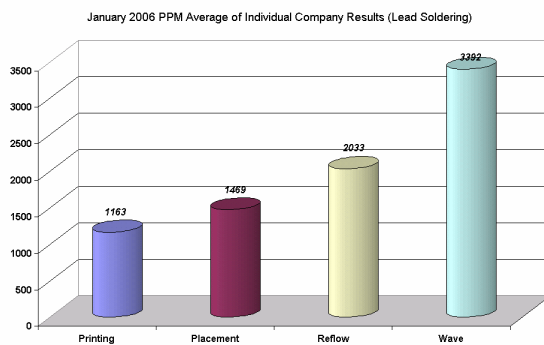




Benchmarking of the Soldering Process - PPM Study and Defects

One of the main objectives of the LEADOUT Project is to provide the benchmarking of the Lead-Free soldering process, in order to improve the European competitiveness of the electrical and electronic industry, especially SMEs.



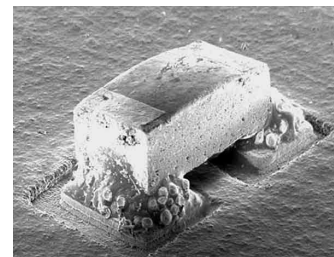
Based on the UK project started by SMART Group, the **Parts Per Million (PPM) Opportunities**, also known as **Defects Per Million Opportunities (DPMO)** is a method to measure the amount of defects occurring on a Printed Circuit Board (PCB).

The LEADOUT Research Institutes partners are assisting the SME companies on how to collect comparable data on their own manufacturing processes. The data is collected in each stage of the process (Printing, Placement, Reflow and Wave). The generated data are being gathered and treated by the Research Institutes to give overall figures for the PPM levels currently being achieved using leaded solders, and how those levels change during and after the conversion to lead-free processing.

Until now this benchmarking programme is limited to the assemblers within the Project, 10 in total, who are currently using Lead soldering. All the results are available and are being posted and updated, each month, in the Project Website: www.leadoutproject.com

The types of defects that occur are available at the “Defect of the Month” at the project website.

Every month it is available for information a new kind of defect, presenting its main characteristics and nature, allowing a brief knowledge of the defects that occur in the soldering process.



Courtesy of Mr. Bob Willis

The LEADOUT Project Benchmarking is now open to external companies. Therefore, we are pleased to welcome new companies to be involved in the LEADOUT benchmarking programme. So, if your company is interested in join us, please contact the responsible for the PPM process on the LEADOUT Project:

Mr. Rolim Carmo
rdcarmo@isq.pt

Please be aware that the reliability of this study increases with the number of participants, offering benefits to all the companies involved in it. The data provided is completely confidential.

Do not forget to visit us at: www.leadoutproject.com