



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ScanCAD International enhances PCBA “New Product Introduction” & “First Piece Inspection” by joining IPC-2581 Consortium.**

**September 16, 2011**

**Morrison, CO, USA - ScanCAD International** has joined the newly formed IPC-2581 Consortium to support IPC-2581, the industry wide CAD design data transfer standard.



“We are pleased to announce that our ConvertPLUS product fully embraces the IPC-2581 format permitting our global PCBA and PCB Fab customer base to use IPC-2581 in their manufacturing processes today” said Bill Loving, President, ScanCAD. “Joining the IPC-2581 Consortium helps promote this efficient new format that shortens the design-to-market manufacturing cycle through eliminating many common data-related production errors.”

PCB Assembly operations may now use a single IPC-2581 file versus a conglomeration of files, such as Gerber, Drill, CAD centroid, etc., reducing the likelihood of surprises on the production floor. All data for manufacturing a PCB is in a single file. ScanCAD systems can import and export IPC-2581 as needed during the New Product Introduction (NPI) and First Piece Inspection process. Using this data, actual bare PCBs & stencils can be scanned & compared to each other and to CAD data prior to production, confirming their viability and eliminating down time, rework and scrap. In addition, First Piece solder paste print & component placement inspection can be performed on the same system, all using one file: the IPC-2581 formatted file.

Stencil Fabricators can also use the same IPC-2581 file to streamline the process of creating & inspecting solder paste stencils & emulsion screens. The fabricator can import the file, extract and modify the key information needed for manufacturing as well as for the automatic inspection of the finished product. This single file is used by the PCB Fabricator & Assembler as well as sub contractors like the stencil fabricators: an example of ScanCAD’s vision of “Simplifying Complex Technology”.

**ScanCAD** is a global provider of optical inspection, legacy re-engineering and process control tools for the PCB Design, Fabrication, Assembly and Semiconductor industries. For more information about ConvertPLUS or other ScanCAD products, contact ScanCAD International, Inc. 12779 West Belleview Ave., Littleton, CO 80127 USA, +1.303.697.8888, [info@scancad.com](mailto:info@scancad.com), [www.scancad.com](http://www.scancad.com).

## **About IPC-2581 Consortium**

IPC-2581 Consortium is a group of PCB design and supply chain companies whose collective goal is to enable, facilitate and drive the use of IPC-2581 in the industry. It is devoted to accelerating the adoption of IPC-2581 as an open, neutrally maintained global standard to encourage innovation, improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Members of the IPC-2581 Consortium include OEMs, EDA/DFM/CAM software companies, PCB fabricators, electronics assemblers and test companies. The Consortium is open to any PCB design and supply chain company that is prepared to support or is committed to a roadmap for IPC-2581 adoption. For a history of data transfer formats, their origins and current status see [A Short History of Electronic Data Formats](#).

### **Links to other articles:**

[Equipping the PCB Design and Supply Chain with 21st Century Data](#), by Keith Felton and Hemant Shah, *Printed Circuit Design and Fabrication*, 28 July 2011

[Users Updating, Adopting IPC Data Transfer Spec](#) by Mike Buetow, *Printed Circuit Design and Fabrication*, 24 June 2011

[Intelligent Design](#), by Mike Buetow, <http://www.pcdandf.blogspot.com>, 2 August 2011

## **About IPC-2581**

IPC-2581 is a generic standard for printed circuit board assembly products' manufacturing description data and transfer methodology. Developed in 2004 by IPC – Association Connecting Electronics Industry, IPC-2581 is used for transmitting information between a printed circuit board designer and a manufacturing or assembly facility. For nearly every step in the industrial process flow, IPC-2581 offers a standard to help companies ensure superior manufacturability, quality, reliability and consistency in electronics assemblies built for their products. To know more about IPC-2581, please visit <http://webstds.ipc.org/2581/2581intro.htm>