



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PHOTO STENCIL RECEIVES 'BEST PRINTING STENCIL' AWARD FROM UNIVERSAL SMT LAB

*AMTX E-FAB electroformed stencil outperforms in both tin-lead and lead-free printing applications*



*Clockwise: Dr. Bill Coleman, Photo Stencil; Universal Award; George Westby, Unovis Laboratory*

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado – May 14, 2007** – [Photo Stencil](http://www.photostencil.com), the leading provider of premium stencils and additional high-end tooling for the SMT assembly industry, has been awarded the 'Best Printing Stencil Award 2006' by the Universal SMT Lab, now known as the [Advanced Process Laboratory of Unovis Solutions](http://www.unovis.com). Photo Stencil's [AMTX E-FAB®](http://www.photostencil.com) electroformed stencil came in first in study #00042805 conducted by the lab, with the company's [NicAlloy™](http://www.photostencil.com) stencil coming in second.

SMT assembly defects happen at all stages of the printing process. The lab's 2006 study isolated the stencil printing tool to determine which stencil improves the process and decreases the

number of defects. The test group included five electroform stencils and seven laser stencils supplied by four leading stencil manufacturers.

“Photo Stencil’s AMTX and NicAlloy products provided the best paste transfer for both tin-lead and lead-free solder pastes,” explains George Westby, director of the Unovis’ Laboratory. “We were happy to recognize Photo Stencil’s achievements in the SMT industry with this award.”

A state-of-the-art Yield Analysis Program, developed by the SMT Lab, was used to determine the yield loss due to open defects of BGA and uBGA packages directly attributed to the stencil. The results show that, compared to the best stencil, the increase in repair costs vary from an additional \$658 for the second best, to several thousand more for poor performing stencils due to higher rework. The repair cost analysis assumes a 20,000 piece board run and a cost of \$75 to repair a defective board.

A copy of the full report generated by the SMT Lab and two appendices explaining the physical properties of the stencils and the rework cost analysis are available upon request. To receive the report, please contact Dr. Bill Coleman – call (719) 535-8528 or e-mail him directly, [bcoleman@photostencil.com](mailto:bcoleman@photostencil.com).

### **Photo Stencil**

Photo Stencil is a full-service provider of high-performance stencils and tooling for the surface mount technology (SMT) assembly industry. Photo Stencil’s technology includes the patented AMTX E-FAB<sup>®</sup> electroformed stencils, the new high-performance proprietary NicAlloy<sup>™</sup> stencil, laser-cut stencils and chem-etch stencils. Step or multilevel stencils are available in all three of the stencil technologies. Stencil design support and customer specific design libraries are provided.

Other SMT tooling includes thick film and metal mask screens. Photo Stencil offers a complete line of squeegee blades, featuring the patented E-Blade<sup>®</sup> electroformed squeegee blade. Solder pallets, SMT process carriers and populated PCB inspection templates are also available.

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Photo Stencil was founded in 1979 and currently holds many patents and trademarks, such as AMTX E-FAB electroformed stencils. The company has additional manufacturing facilities in Mexico and Malaysia. More information is available at [www.photostencil.com](http://www.photostencil.com).

*AMTX E-FAB, E-Blade and NicAlloy are trademarks of Photo Stencil.*

### **Universal Instruments and Unovis Solutions**

Universal Instruments is a leading manufacturer of circuit board assembly equipment. Universal serves the surface mount and insertion machine electronic assembly markets with a rich tradition of excellent products and services. Additionally, Unovis Solutions, a combination of Universal's former ASA Division (Advanced Semiconductor Assembly), OFA Division (Odd Form Assembly), SMT Laboratory, and Hover-Davis, Inc.'s direct feeder business, focuses on providing specialized assembly solutions. For more information, please visit [www.uic.com](http://www.uic.com) and [www.unovis-solutions.com](http://www.unovis-solutions.com).