



Micreo Limited,
(ACN 098 350 479, ABN 11 098 350 479)
7 Hi-Tech Court,
Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 4113, Australia.
Tel: +61 (0)7 3340-6200
Fax: +61 (0)7 3340-6201

May 2014

Defence supplier Micreo wins Technology Application of the Year Award

Micreo Limited, a specialised designer and manufacturer of high performance microwave and photonics sub-system products for defence, has received the award for Technology Application of the Year at the recent Manufacturer's Monthly Endeavour Awards 2014. Micreo won the award for its patented "Gain Shaper" technology.

Micreo was also a finalist in two other Award categories: Exporter of the Year and Global Integration of the Year.

Founded in 2002, originally with 17 people, Micreo has grown to 72 staff. Located in the Brisbane Technology Park since 2003, it currently has 14 design engineers and over 40 manufacturing and technical staff.

Micreo's core business is the design and manufacture of products to transmit and receive signals in the microwave region of the electromagnetic spectrum. The Microwave Integrated Circuits (MICs) and subsystems, as well as photonics products, are supplied to global defence companies and Micreo products are currently installed in several of the world's leading military aircraft and ships, and supplied directly to defence forces both here and overseas.

Micreo is the only manufacturer of such products using bare chip technology in Australia. Micreo's key to success in the microwave Electronic Warfare sub-systems market is reliability of supply. This encompasses the ability to supply products which consistently meet all specifications, at the right price, and on time.



Microwave and Electro-Optic Technology



“We’re part of a global supply chain, supplying to aerospace prime contractors, delivering Australian content,” explained Jeff Abell, Chief Operations Officer at Micreo, who accepted the Award on behalf of the Company.

Micreo’s patented “Gain Shaper” technology is now being deployed into the latest product designs and has delivered significant cost savings, enabling competition for new opportunities in foreign markets. In addition, the inclusion of the Gain Shaper into a design upgrade for an existing product has resulted in production at a lower price than when it was first sold by Micreo in 2003.

“The Gain Shaper corrects for the natural frequency response of a microwave or millimetre wave circuit and can be tuned electronically,” explained Abell. “It’s a massive labour saving for us. It used to take days, maybe even weeks of time to manually align a microwave or millimetre wave circuit and we have automated this process so that we can now do it electronically in a much shorter timeframe. It delivers lower costs for us and our customers, and reduced risk compared to the traditional methods.”

“I’m just really pleased for the company to be recognised for this ground-breaking technology that we developed. Our engineering team put a lot of effort into it. It’s putting our products in a competitive position against competitors in the United States, as they have historically been the world leaders.”

Micreo’s products utilise high performance microwave and advanced photonic techniques for optimum performance. These products have to operate in extreme environments and, to be able to manufacture them, Micreo has installed facilities which include ISO Class 6/8 cleanrooms, laser welding, environmental testing, and extensive state-of-the-art assembly and test equipment. Much of this equipment is unique to industry in Australia.

As an Australian high-tech manufacturer exporting 85% of its production, Micreo has faced significant challenges due to the high value of the Australian Dollar and increasing domestic labour costs that have set its hourly rates at more than 25 per cent above those of its US competitors (a complete reversal to the situation prior to the Global Financial Crisis.)

The judges noted that they were “impressed by Micreo’s approach to overcome the challenges posed by the high Australian dollar and wage rates.”

“The application of unique home-grown technology has given the company an edge in a competitive international market.”

In order to maintain their customer base and have a chance for repeat orders, and to compete internationally for new business, Micreo has had to improve manufacturing processes and efficiency and introduce innovative technology to reduce both the time to market for new products as well as the manufacturing cycle times for existing products.

To learn more, visit www.micreo.com.

