

Newsletter of the  
Area Consultants  
March 2007  
Volume 14

# *The Advisor*

IEEE Phoenix  
Network

Number 3



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## **IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network March Meeting: Flexible Displays – New Developments in Technology**

**Date:** Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Time:** Networking begins at 6:30 pm

Dinner begins at 7:00 pm

Program starts at 8:00 pm

**Place:** Monti's Restaurant

1 Rio Salado Parkway

Tempe, Arizona

**Abstract:** Edward J. Bawolek, Principal Test Engineer at the Flexible Display Center at Arizona State University will present: "Active Matrix TFT Technology Development and Pilot Line Manufacturing for Flexible Displays." This is a reprise of a talk originally presented by Dr. Greg Raupp (FDC Director) at the USDC Flexible Displays and Microelectronics Conference Phoenix, Arizona, February 6-8, 2007.

Please RSVP by noon on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> to Vaughn Treude, [vaughn@nakota-software.com](mailto:vaughn@nakota-software.com). For more information about the Consultants Network, see the IEEE PACN website, [ieeepacn.com](http://ieeepacn.com).

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### **President's Message**

Please excuse the brevity of this issue. Our editor, Clark Jones, is having computer problems and has asked me to do the March Advisor. In the interests of getting this out in time, I'm sending what little I've got.

Sorry I missed last month's meeting. I hope it was useful and informative for those of you who attended. I need to look into business insurance again, especially since my own practice has changed over the years. When I first started on my own I was a self-employed contractor, and usually worked at the client's site as if I was an employee. (People tend to worry about the tax implications that sort of arrangement, but the secret is to incorporate – an LLC is probably just as good – and set yourself up as your own employee. That's an idea for a potential future meeting topic, if enough people are interested.) These days I'm more of a real consultant. My jobs are mostly off-site and almost always priced by fixed bid. Whether that's more or less of a liability, I don't know, but I know it's definitely more challenging financially speaking.

This month's topic returns us to the technical world. It's always good to keep up with leading edge technologies. Flexible display technologies is one of those ideas that attracted a lot of fanfare in the media 2-3 years ago. There has also been a lot of interest (and funding) from the military, because a flexible display that could be rolled up and stored would be very useful on the battlefield. I'm personally interested in seeing what kind of progress the innovators have made. How close are we to having flexible displays commercially available? *Red*

*Herring* magazine reported on January 25<sup>th</sup> of this year that two companies, the Philips spinoff Polymer Vision, and a British company called Plastic Logic, are planning to build factories to make these things. That makes our March presentation very timely. PACN member Ed Bawolek, who works at the ASU flexible display center, will be telling us about this fascinating new technology.

That's this coming Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> – sorry about the late notice, but I hope you'll all attend if possible.

One more issue I need to address is our Executive Board meetings. Years ago we'd have these on Saturdays, but it wasn't easy to get people to interrupt their weekends. Later we started having the board meetings before our regular meetings, which was much more convenient. At Denny's this was easy because they didn't mind us coming in early. At Monti's, however, they charge extra if we want the room for more than three hours. So last month I arranged to have the board meeting at Lane Garret's company, ETA Engineering, in Tempe, which is something we'd done in the past. The problem is they're moving their operations to Mesa, so we'll need to find a new place. I haven't firmed up this month's meeting location yet, but I plan to contact the board members on Monday.

See you on Thursday!  
Vaughn Treude