



Early Supplier Involvement: VDL TBP Electronics advises imec's DfX guidelines

“To provide their customers with the most competitive value of ownership and the highest quality”; that is what VDL TBP Electronics stands for. Therefore, “early supplier involvement” and “Design for eXcellence” (DfX) are of great value to the company. The DfX process aims at minimising the total cost of ownership - from development to end-of-life - by helping to create the most optimal product design as early as possible in the development cycle. An easily transferable product requires a DfX process that is equipment and EMS-supplier independent. Therefore, VDL TBP Electronics advises all its customers to follow imec's Electronic Design and Manufacturing (EDM) DfX guidelines. These guidelines are based on the scientific analysis and modelling of production, quality and reliability aspects of electronic assemblies (PCB, P(C)BA). They are the result of ten years of collective research performed by imec in collaboration with industrial partners and members of the EDM network. The latter ensures industrial viability and acceptance. The guidelines aim for an electronic assembly design with excellent quality that can be cost-effectively produced in any state-of-the-art PCB production and assembly facility worldwide. The guidelines guide you through the IPC standards requirements and refer to easily obtainable information (supplier websites) provided by datasheets of components and materials whenever possible. They are supported by a set of practical tools that support you in the quantification of manufacturing, quality and reliability risks of your electronic assembly design prior to actual production¹. Therefore, they can be deployed as important cost-saving DfX tools early in the design process, i.e. prior to prototyping.

Electronic assembly designs that follow the EDM DfX guidelines will swiftly go through the DfX evaluation process and will be easily transferable to e.g. a large(r) volume assembly operation; a win-win situation for all parties.

In 2020, the EDM activities of imec continue under the name EDM Forum. All members of this forum get free access to all the guidelines and tools, as well as a lot of background information, through the forum website www.cedm.be or www.edmforum.be². Membership is open to all those interested. As an early adopter of DfX methodologies, VDL TBP Electronics has been a partner and active participant of the EDM network for over ten years; VDL TBP Electronics is also the first company to join the new EDM Forum. More information regarding the offering can be found on the EDM Forum website. You may also contact:

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¹ “Think ahead to realise Right First Time”

² www.edmforum.be will be the new name of the website currently under construction; for the time being, www.cedm.be will be live