

CMSE 2025: **Addressing the Growing Challenges of Electronic Component Unavailability and** Industry Knowledge Loss

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Let's Define Obsolescence – IEC-62402:

3.1.12 obsolescence

transition of an item from available to unavailable from the manufacturer in accordance with the original specification

3.1.14 obsolescence risk

measure of uncertainty as to when an item will become obsolete

3.1.15 obsolete <tangible item>

no longer in production from the manufacturer in accordance with the original specification

3.1.16 obsolete <intangible item>

no longer *available* from the manufacturer in accordance with the original specification

The international standard on obsolescence mentions availability 20 times.

....why talk Availability?

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Why discuss this? Trends Contributing to Component Unavailability

- The semiconductor industry is growing rapidly, expected to reach USD \$2 trillion by 2032.
- Procurement managers don't care about the reason

"All I want to know is if the component is available or not. Will it be on my dock, or my CM's dock when it should be, or not? If not, what is the corrective action."

Component unavailability is becoming a larger issue due to:



Supply Chain Disruptions



Market Demand

Corrective actions to address component obsolescence can be applied to **other** instances of unavailability.



Manufacturing Challenges



Component Obsolescence









Problem	Impact	Resolution	Cost	Heartburn factor?
Missed EOL	High	Redesign, Reclaim, Spot buy	High (if recertifying)	High
Planned EOL	Medium	Redesign, Reclaim, LTB	High (if recertifying)	Depends on IIOM Membership
Extended Lead Time	Medium-High	Spot buy, Wait	Depends if line- down, or contractual penalties	High
Shipping Delays	Medium-High	Spot buy, Wait	Depends if line- down, or contractual penalties	High
Demand Spikes	High	Spot buy, Wait	High	High
Shortages (deliberate or accidental)	High	Spot buy, remortgage house, medicate CFO	HIGH	High
Strikes, Geopolitics	High	Redesign, Spot Buy	High	High
Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages	High	Redesign, Spot Buy, Wait	High	High

Hallmarks of Availability Challenges





Output is the second second



Last-Time Buy (LTB)

LTBs don't work for instant obsolescence, insufficient purchasing power, and lack of proper warehouses.



Find Alternates

Some alternates may no longer be active, lack manufacturers while others require redesigns.



Spot Buy

Drastic measure to keep production lines running, and to retain contract and deliverable viability.

Redesign/Recertify

Redesigns are costly, especially for highreliability industries. Design knowledge may have been lost.







- These manufacturers must abide by strict pre-market approvals.
- Products undergo months to years of costly redesigns and recertifications.
- Simply replacing a part with a DIR may require re-applying for certification, making LTBs the only viable solution.
- If no LTB is possible then Spot Buy is the least-worst option.

- General controls
- Special controls
- Premarket approval process
- General controls
- Special controls
- General controls

Redesign/Recertification Challenges in High-Reliability Industries



FDA market approval requirements for medical devices











- Sustainable design is to design products with a "right-to-repair mindset."
- Four key strategies help promote and establish greater awareness around sustainable product design.





Strategic Design Choice



Sustainable Solutions to Component Unavailability



Market Monitoring



Integrated Solutions







Now Let's Touch on Knowledge and the Current Labor Pool

"An aging workforce, regulatory changes, newly required skill sets, and shifting employee expectations are changing the landscape of semiconductor talent," - Deloitte

Education comes in many forms.

Let's focus on formal and higher education.







More graduates are leaving 'Western' Universities with STEM 250000 degrees but... 200000 80% of semiconductor-related graduates in the U.S. do not stay in the U.S. post-150000 graduation 90% of polled companies say 100000 talent acquisition is key to sustaining industry growth 50000 63% of polled organizations agree that talent capability and acquisition are major company 0 risks USA

Global Comparisons for Education

Global Education - Relevant Growth









.... but compared with key 'emerging' economies this is not so impressive.

The U.S. semiconductor workforce is older than other technology industries.

- 55% of the U.S. semiconductor workforce is 45 or older
- Less than 25% of that is under the age of 35
- 20% is 55 or older in Europe
- Germany expects 30% of its chip workforce to retire in 10 years

Global Comparisons for Education

Global Education - Relevant Growth

				8,000%	10
USA Engineerir	UK ng Graduate	Germany es 2000 Eng	Japan gineering Grac	China Juates 2023	Inc









- Huge onshoring efforts globally
- USA CHIPS act aims to add 200,000 jobs
- EU CHIPS rivals the USA investment, but job claims range from 9,000-50,000
- Intel, Micron, BAE, Microchip, GlobalFoundries, TSMC, Samsung, Texas Instruments, HP all receive funding and loans....
-all but Micron have delayed their start dates
- Research shows that policies, like the CHIPS Act, improve retention while geopolitics, such as the advanced manufacturing equipment ban, stall this growth.

Are there jobs? Electronics Focus



100000000000



POLICY



CHIPPING IN: CONDUCTOR WILL INCREASE DOMESTIC JOBS

SIA/Oxford Economics Report:

Robust federal incentives for domestic chip manufacturing would create an average of nearly 200,000 American jobs annually as fabs are built and add nearly \$25 billion annually to U.S. economy

DOWNLOAD THE REPORT









You said you would show us sustainable solutions and now you only have 7 minutes left....





- Prioritize sustainable component choices over today's cheap parts.
- Sole source avoidance is a vital step in sustainable design.





multiple manufacturers.

• Removing sole sources and other risks in the design phase can boost product sustainability.

Strategic Design Choice









- Companies should manage cases for risky parts early in the design phase.
- This promotes visibility and transparency at all organizational levels.
- The DoD has standardized guidelines, SD-22 and SD-26 for diminishing sources.

Case Information		Case F	Resolutions	
AD737JN Analog Devices, Inc. — Show Part Data –	End of Life	0	Life Of Need Buy AD737JN (n/a)	rob.picken@s 10 months ago
GENE-001 (AD737JN (n/a))		•	Simple Substitute Missing Part	rob.picken@s 10 months ago
Priority * High	Impact Date * 04/19/2024	Su	ggested Resolution 🧧 Next	Suggested Resolution
Assigned To * rob.picken@sourceability.com		Audit	: Log	
Impact Description * Missed this discontinuance as assembly has not been produced since 2011 and we had stock on shelf to consume. Unexpected re-order from UPS supplier for Metro Area General Hospital. Large order, 5 units of MPS product for delivery Jun 2024.		Statu: Statu: Final	s changed at was updated s was updated resolution was updated	Rob.Picken@sourceability.com
		Statu	s changed at was created	Rob.Picken@sourceability.com

Case Manageme

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- Proactive monitoring can identify upcoming choke points.
- Manual processes contribute to an increased risk of human error leading to delays and revenue loss.



Market Intelligence and Monitoring







- Team collaboration optimizes the design-to-development process, reduces time and resource waste, and increases productivity via collaboration.
- Engineers and procurement teams need to work together.



Integrated Solutions









Supplementing Labor Gaps with Agile Solutions

- Education pipelines are in development but will take time to train the next generation.
- Secure knowledge with artificial intelligence applications to document data that incoming talent can later utilize.
- Al can help fill in the gaps by handling manual tasks and maintenance.
- Invest in upskilling and reskilling existing workers or careeradjacent labor.







Conclusion – Modern Challenges Require Sustainable Support

- Electronic component unavailability is a common supply chain threat that occurs for various reasons, not limited to obsolescence.
- Organizations must prioritize sustainable solutions over current component prices and unfavorable contracts, calling on the experience of skilled practitioners to make progress.
- Sustainable design can be accomplished through education, strategic selection, case management, market monitoring, and collaboration via integrated tools.
- Knowledge loss can be prevented by using AI to document data and train new technicians while identifying and filling in gaps caused by the labor shortage.
- Above all other problems, organizations MUST plan for the single largest threat to sustainability, viability and long-term progress and the common limiting factor across all industries...

...people, their fragility and challenges around replaceability.











Thank you

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