

Automotive Capacitors Procurement for SME Space Hardware Manufacturer Case Study

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There are number of considerations from (new) space community to use automotive grade components for space hardware. The three main motivations are non-existence of the part at QPL/MIL level, better performance or lower cost reasons. Nevertheless, there are number of worries about reliability, maturity in space environment and evaluation/qualification requirements for these components. EPCI was awarded by a small contract from ESA to make a simulation case study on purchasing of automotive grade capacitors by a small space electronic hardware manufacturer. The aim of the project is to evaluate communication within the automotive component supply chain, available data package, tracability and support that can be expected by so far space industry operating SME company.

The presentation will include overview of communication with distributors, capacitor manufacturers and it will conclude in some important observations and recommendations.