

## **20 Year Shelf Life Study for Surface Finishes**

**Speaker: Gerard O'Brien**, David Hillman – STandS Group – Richmond, KY

E-Mail: [gobrien@standsgroup.com](mailto:gobrien@standsgroup.com)

### **Abstract**

Printed circuit board surface finishes are generally acknowledged of retaining their solderability characteristics for 1-2 years dependent on their storage conditions and original deposition quality. But what happens to printed circuit board surface finishes after being stored for 20 years? This paper documents a unique situation where industry printed circuit boards surfaces finishes were examined using wetting balance assessment and electron microscopy analysis after being stored in 21C, 30%-70% RH conditions. Some of the printed circuit board surface finishes included in the investigation were immersion silver, immersion bismuth, ENEPIG and ENIG.