Panel Synopsis

The aim of this panel is to discuss the impact and potential of using PXI as a board level functional test strategy.

The PXI Systems Alliance, on the web, states the following:

*PXI (PCI Extensions for Instrumentation) was developed to bridge the gap between desktop PC systems and high-end VXI and GPIB systems*

*PXI is a modular instrumentation platform designed specifically for measurement and automation applications. With PXI, you can select the modules you need to integrate into a single PXI system from multiple vendors*

Board functional test has of late been going through a bit of a decline, with the driving factors being cost and time to market and the progress of structural test technologies. Traditional board testers tend to be more the domain of the large volume manufacturers, while today more and more design companies are using subcontracts for PCB manufacture and test.

The low volume manufacturers tend not to invest in automated board testers, but develop custom solutions, or even no functional test whatsoever.

The purpose of this panel is to discuss and bring to the audience the issues arising when considering PXI for a functional board test solution. Whether it be for an in-house application, a mixed technology design, e.g. digital + analog.

Among the issues being discussed will be the suitability of the PXI technology, reuse, reconfiguration and a common software platform with standard hardware/software interfaces. Also featuring among the discussions will be the ease (or not) of system development and integration and the need to meet the technical requirements of the board test scenario rather than system test. We will also present the sceptics case – in others “I’ve heard the adverts and marketing - now convince me!”

The panelists cover the topic spectrum, from the PXI Systems Alliance, Instrument vendor, Integrator, User and Wannabee user.

**Moderator**  
Glenn Woppman, Asset-Intertech Inc

**Panelists**  
Bob Stasonis, Teradyne  
Eric Straklof, National Instruments  
Eric L. Smitt, Lockheed Martin  
Jim Webster, BAE Systems