April 25, 2007

Dear Sir or Madam:

At PCB Piezotronics we regularly encounter situations where there is a need for trained people to handle the ever more complex technologies used in today’s products. This is even truer in the embedded DSP arena where the demand for trained individuals far outweighs the supply. As an employer we are unable to hire college graduates with adequate DSP skills and the ability to effectively apply those skills in an embedded environment. This results in PCB Piezotronics assuming the responsibility to provide several years of on the job training which is detrimental to our business because of lower productivity, higher training costs and long response times.

Many of the recent graduates that I have interviewed come from a curriculum that is focused on implementing digital algorithms using both high-end tools and hardware. As a result of this focus I have found that these graduates have a poor understanding of fundamental digital signal processing concepts and how to implement these concepts in a limited hardware environment such as is common in embedded systems.

Problems associated with hiring engineers who have DSP skills are compounded because the market requiring individuals with knowledge of DSP applications for filtering, windowing, speech, audio, image and video coding/compression methods, is rapidly growing with shortages already evident. This market is wide ranging, from entertainment, instrumentation, communications and gaming to military applications. The availability of highly trained new graduates in this area is critical. Based upon these facts we highly encourage the development of courses and the associated materials that will cover these areas.

We are also willing to participate in assessing the developed material and the teaching strategies for future improvement.

We look forward to discussing this further with you, and hope we can help in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Cox
Engineering Manager
Larson Davis, a Division of PCB Piezotronics