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## **Suppliers of Assembly and Handling Technology Build European Network Most important tasks defined at the 2<sup>nd</sup> EFAC Conference 2003 in Davos**

The European suppliers of assembly and handling technology represent an estimated turnover of some 12 billion euros and the industry is growing fast. „Our mission is to provide innovative solutions to the manufacturing industry enabling it to stay competitive“ said Martin Frauenfelder, President of the European Factory Automation Committee (EFAC) and Board Member of Mikron Technology Group, in his opening address of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EFAC Conference (January 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>, 2003) in Davos, Switzerland. The conference attracted some 60 senior level executives of the assembly technology sector from 11 countries and provided a unique networking opportunity for the decision makers within the industry. It also presented the major challenges and mega-trends of the industry, such as global location decisions for assembly processes, the market potential for micro assembly, strategies for tapping foreign markets, future demands of the automotive industry or the situation of the assembly technology industry in the United States. Parallel round-table sessions gave ample space for interaction and exchanging ideas. EFAC, the European Network of assembly and handling technology suppliers and organizer of the conference, seized the opportunity and asked the industry representatives what action EFAC should take to support the industry. The highest priority was given to „networking“. Consequently, EFAC will continue to provide the necessary platforms for establishing contacts and exchanging ideas on senior executive level. „Benchmarking“ was ranked the second most important field of activity for EFAC. A project group will therefore be established in February of 2003 to develop a benchmarking programme tailored to the needs of this sector of industry. It will be launched on European level in the second half of 2003. The third highest priority was awarded to „contracting“. EFAC will develop an official recommendation as a guideline for drafting contracts for the sale of custom-built, special-purpose assembly systems that will give more legal security to both vendor and customer. The collection of highly up-to-date market data – which is already done on a quarterly basis under the name EFAC Quick Survey – was confirmed as the fourth most important field of activity. It will be continually improved. The challenges ahead for this important sector of industry have clearly shown the key role EFAC plays in providing a European networking platform. The 3<sup>rd</sup> EFAC Conference is scheduled to take place in Davos on January 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> January, 2005.

Find out more about the European Factory Automation Committee and its activities:

[www.efac.org](http://www.efac.org)

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