Rochester Webinar Recap: Beyond Date Codes – Rethinking Semiconductor Traceability

Rochester Electronics recently hosted a webinar with Dan Deisz and Peter Crudele, sharing practical insights on semiconductor traceability and reliability.

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For years, “two-year date codes” have guided decisions on component usability. But as manufacturing advances and older packages become obsolete, date codes alone are no longer sufficient. Relying solely on age can limit access to critical parts, create sourcing challenges, and disrupt production schedules.

The speakers highlighted that concerns about soldering older components are often overstated. They demonstrated how fully authorised, traceable parts remain reliable even if they are older, and why traceability matters more than arbitrary age limits.

Using real-world examples, including lessons from COVID-19 supply chain disruptions, the webinar explored how obsolescence affects long-lifecycle systems and why careful sourcing and storage practices are essential.

Attendees gained clear guidance on rethinking date code restrictions, managing obsolescence, and relying on traceable, authorised components to keep systems running smoothly and resiliently.