

RON MOLNAR

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I joined Monsanto in May, 1973 right after graduating with a BSEE from U.C. Berkeley. The Vietnam War was winding down. Gas stations had long lines, if they had gas. I was serving in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. As a Product Engineer for the Optoisolator line, I made my first overseas trip to the Kuala Lumpur factory in November, 1973. What an experience for a 23 year old! Little did I know – I would make many more trips to Asia in my career. I've met many interesting people around the world and cherish their friendships to this day.

In March, 1978 I joined Siemens Opto (the old Litronix) as the Opto Coupler Product Line Manager. I was responsible for developing the double-molded packaging of their first 5kV optoisolators. I visited the Siemens factories in Penang and Malacca, Malaysia many times during my 8 years there.

In April, 1986 I went to work for VLSI Technology as their Package Development Manager. After 12 years in the Opto world, I found it was relatively easy to design reliable, leadframe-based, plastic ASIC packages. I no longer had to deal with optical issues. After 4 years at VLSI, I did a short stint at an SRAM start-up, Synergy Semiconductor, in Santa Clara.

I joined Amkor Electronics in May, 1992 and moved my family to Phoenix, AZ. I rose to VP, Advanced Packaging, in 4+ years focusing on high-leadcount, high-power solutions, like the *SuperBGA* package. During my last 2 years there, I traveled extensively to Korea, the Philippines, Japan, and to many customers. I was traveling 40% of the time and was burning out. In 1997, I took an opportunity to co-found a domestic contract IC assembly company in Phoenix as VP, Engineering. No more travel, but unfortunately, the start-up folded 3 years later in February, 2000 during the economic downturn.

Since then, I've been consulting in electronics – specializing in IC package design and assembly. I've repped sales for a few small companies, and I am currently selling ads for *Chip Scale Review* magazine. I've served as an officer of our local SMTA chapter for the last 4 years. I keep looking for an opportunity to return to the high brightness LED industry.

Carole and I met at Monsanto and married in June, 1978. We have two lovely daughters, ages 31 and 28. Neither one is married. No grandchildren yet. We have lived in Phoenix for nearly 20 years, and don't miss the traffic and high cost of living in the Bay Area. I enjoy golfing, investing, and leisure travel. We recently started taking a few cruises.



Ron Molnar (1974)



Ron Molnar (2010)