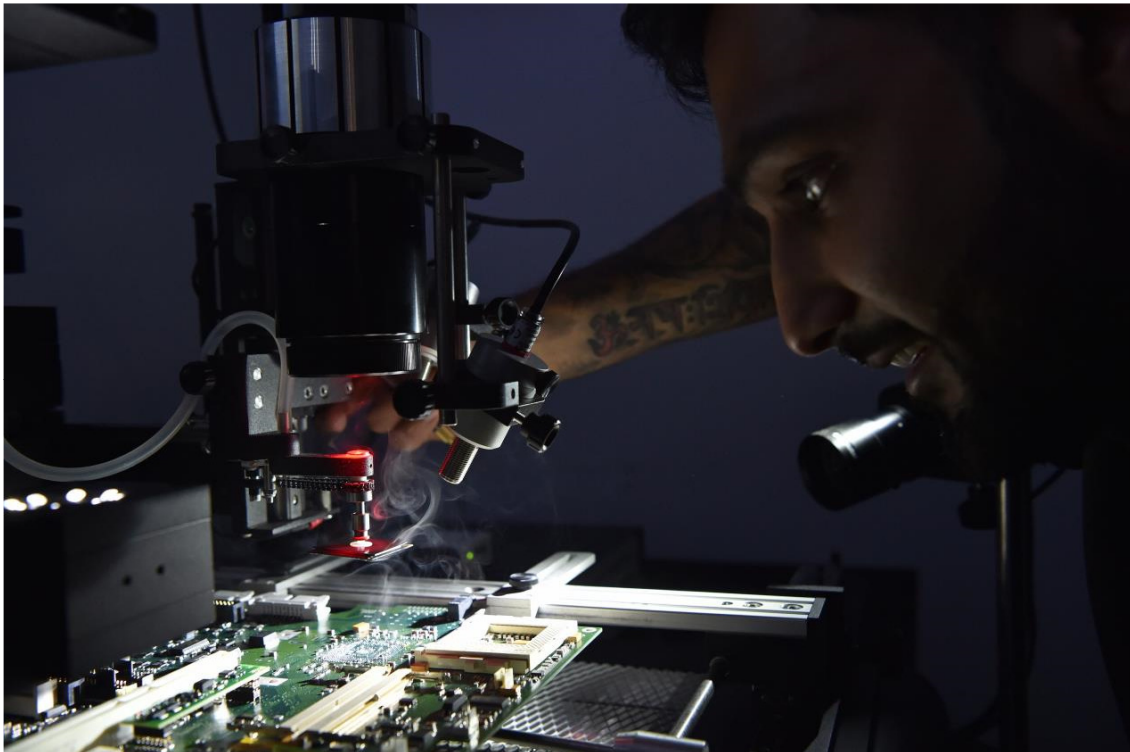


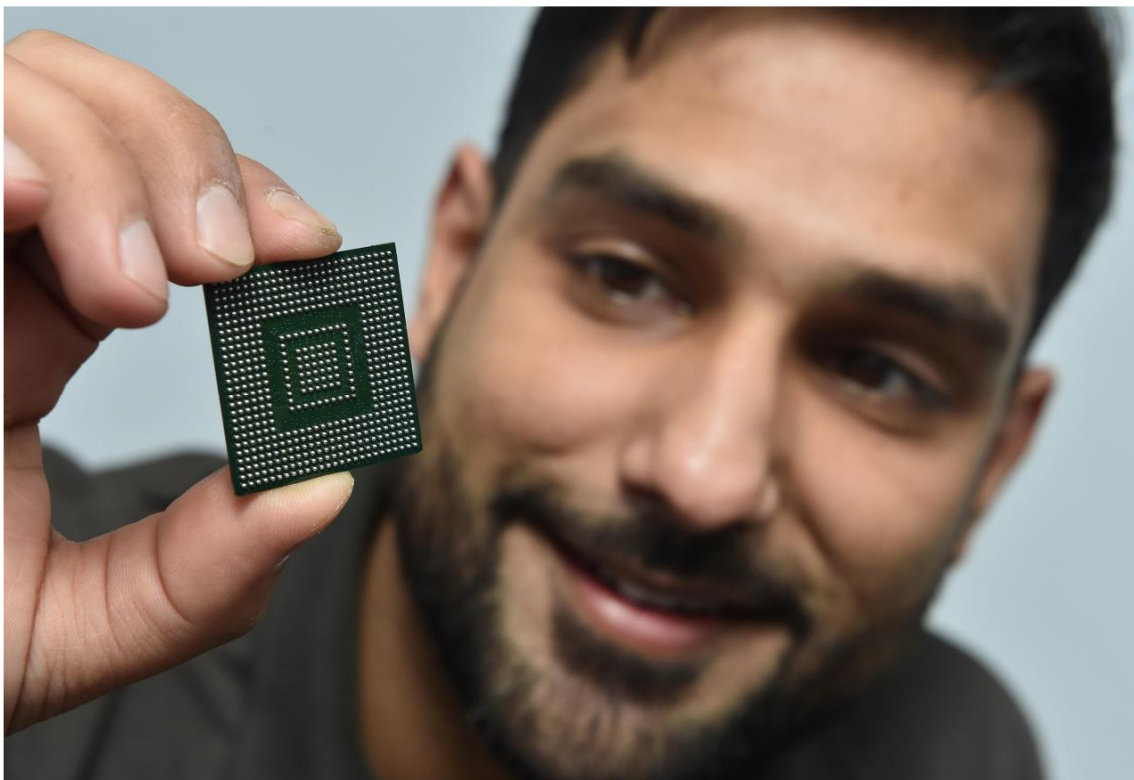
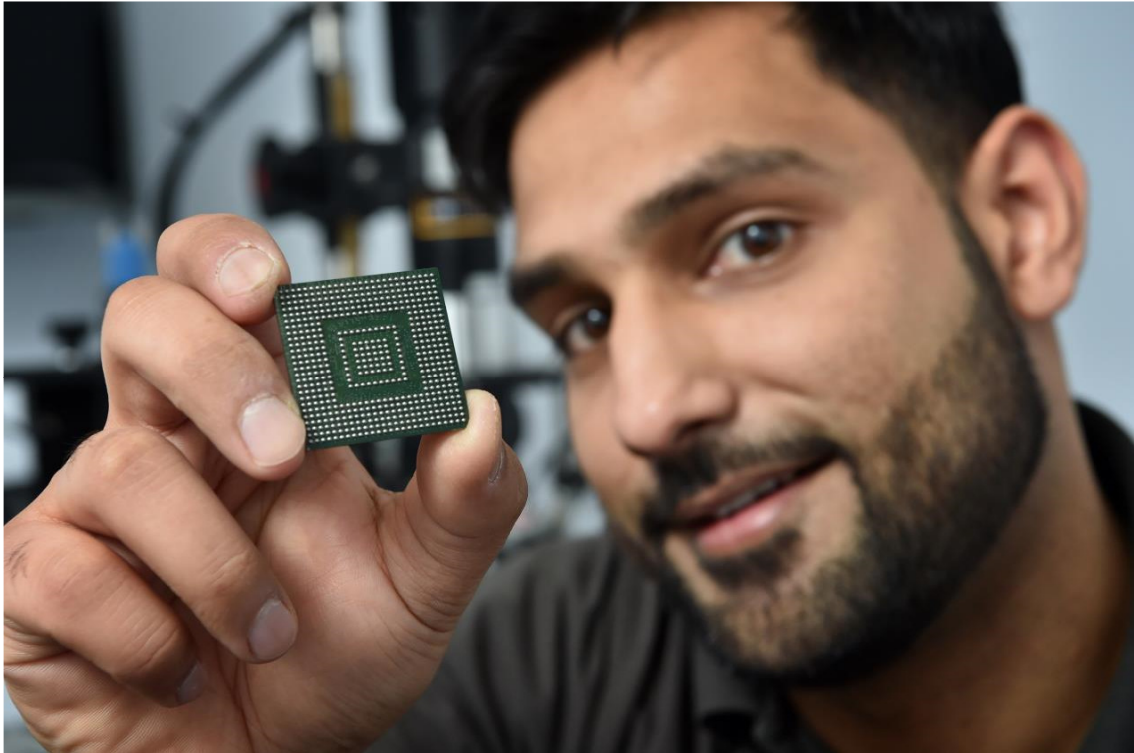
Semiconductor Crisis: Northern Industrial Steps Up Buying to Help Firms Through

14 February 2022

Blackburn-based Northern Industrial has enhanced its obsolete equipment buying capabilities in response to the global shortage of semiconductors currently affecting businesses across the world.

PHOTO: Northern Industrial Senior Electronics Engineer Vikesh Rathod at work on a BGA Machine removing a bespoke Siemens chip set, at Northern Industrial, Blackburn





The global chip semiconductor shortage is an ongoing crisis affecting more than 169 industries which has led to major price increases, shortages and supply stream delays for all products that require semiconductors.

Commonly cited causes for the shortage include the COVID-19 pandemic, industrial tensions between the USA and China as well as various severe weather incidents and a spate of industrial fires.

Northern Industrial managing director David Lenehan said: “While the pandemic-related increase in remote work and remote learning caused a surge in demand for computers and other consumer electronics with chips, lockdowns simultaneously caused chip production facilities to shut down, leading to the depletion of stocks.

“In September 2020, the US Department of Commerce imposed restrictions on China’s largest chip manufacturer, which made it harder for them to sell to companies with American ties.

“A severe winter storm in February 2021 forced the closure of two plants in Austin, Texas, owned by Samsung and NXP Semiconductors, setting back supply from these two plants by several months.

“Meanwhile, Taiwan the leader of the global semiconductor industry, experienced its worst drought in more than half a century, leading to problems among chip manufacturers that use large amounts of ultra-pure water to clean their factories and wafers.

“These problems were exacerbated when an Asahi Kasei semiconductor plant, which specializes in ADC and DAC components, caught fire in October 2020 while another Japanese factory owned by Renesas Electronics, which supplies 30 percent of the global market for microcontroller units used in cars, caught fire in March 2021.

“All these events together have caused the unprecedented shortage which poses a severe danger to manufacturers worldwide who need to keep their equipment running at all costs to stay in business.”

In response, Blackburn-based Northern Industrial, which exports spare parts and repair services to companies worldwide, has stepped-up its obsolete equipment buying capabilities with an enhanced *Sell to Us* section on its website and the expansion of its dismantling team.

Lenehan said: “Northern Industrial is built on prioritising refurbishment and re-use over recycling. But the global semiconductor crisis means we are now stepping up our buying department to take on industrial automation equipment that might previously have been deemed beyond repair in order to recover semiconductors from inside that might keep a manufacturing company somewhere up and running, who might otherwise go out of business while waiting for appropriate semiconductors to become available.

“We now have a dedicated section on our website for people who may see out-of-commission industrial electronic machinery as junk to find out whether they actually might be able to sell to us so we can give it a further life, even if that is just for the semiconductors contained inside, which would otherwise end up in the crusher.”

For more information go to: <https://nicontrols.com/uk/selltous> or call 0800 234 3747.

Northern Industrial

Established 1978, Northern Industrial is a family owned and run business. Providing new, reconditioned and obsolete parts and repair services to customers in 146 countries worldwide, the multi-award-winning company currently sources from over 1,350 manufacturers, covers over 200,000 part numbers, and holds approximately £10m in stock.

With a company mission, “to save the world from downtime, one part at a time...” to find out more go to <https://nicontrols.com/uk/>.

Awards and certifications

Northern Industrial is Certified ISO:9001 and approved by ISOQAR.

Awards include:

Lancashire Telegraph Business Awards

Export Award 2013

Finalist in Small Business of the Year Award 2013

Chamber of Commerce

Export Award 2014 and highly commended 2015

Hive Blackburn & Darwen Business Awards

2015 Finalist & 2016 winner in the International Achievement Award

Young Uns Awards

Young Un in International Trade 2015 awarded to Managing Director David Lenehan

Finalists in International Achievement and Engineering Businesses

E3 North West Business Awards

Winner of the International business of the year award 2016

Red Rose Awards

Winner of best Ecommerce Business 2019

Online Sales Award 2020

Export Award 2020