



Independent Distributors of Electronics Association
PRESS RELEASE

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IDEA Elects New Board Officers for 2011-2012

New Officers Bring Years of Experience and Dedication to the IDEA Mission to the Positions

BUENA PARK, Calif., September 1, 2011 – The Independent Distributors of Electronics Association (IDEA) announces the election of Board Officers for the 2011-2012 term. The Officers were elected by the IDEA Board of Directors and began serving their terms early last week.

Paul Romano was elected President. Romano has served on the Board of Directors since 2008 and is the Chief Operating Officer of Fusion Trade, Inc., an IDEA Member since 2004. Paul also serves as the Chair of the IDEA Standards Committee and provided excellent leadership in the Committee's work on the recently completed revision of IDEA's inspection standard, IDEA-STD-1010-B. His dedication and commitment to numerous IDEA projects has significantly supported the vision and mission of the Association.

"This is an extremely exciting and busy time for IDEA," Romano said. "The release of the newly revised IDEA-STD-1010-B and the pending release of the IDEA-QMS-9090 represent key milestones for the Association, and there will be more to come. I am both excited and honored to be serving and leading IDEA as President for the next year. We have much to accomplish and together we can continue to build significant value for our Members and our customers."

The Board also elected Michael DiBenedetto as Vice President. DiBenedetto has served on the Board of Directors since 2007 and is Chief Executive Officer of SND Electronics, LLC, an IDEA Member since 2004. Michael chairs the IDEA Membership and Ethics Oversight Committee and provides key business and industry insight to IDEA from his more than twenty (20) years of leadership experience in the global Open Market.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve IDEA as Vice President for the next year. Working together with Paul Romano and Lori LeRoy, I am eager to continue IDEA's aggressive agenda of quality knowledge-based products and membership value," stated DiBenedetto.

Lori LeRoy was elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer. LeRoy has served on the Board of Directors since 2010 and is the owner of Global IC Trading Group, Inc., an IDEA Member since 2009. LeRoy serves on numerous IDEA Committees and is providing leadership as Co-Chair and project coordinator for the creation of the new IDEA-QMS-9090, a quality management system standard specific to the Independent Distribution Industry.

"I am honored and excited to represent IDEA in the capacity of Secretary/Treasurer," said LeRoy. I wholeheartedly support IDEA's mission and goals and am looking forward to working with Paul Romano as President and Michael DiBenedetto as Vice President."

Debra Eggeman, Executive Director of IDEA, is enthusiastic about the new Officers and their tenure to come. "By voting Romano, DiBenedetto, and LeRoy into the President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer positions respectively, the Board of Directors has taken strong action to ensure IDEA

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continues to provide meaningful value to OEMs, EMS Providers, the IDEA Member Companies, and the industry community as a whole,” Eggeman noted. “Each newly elected Officer is a proven successful business leader in his or her own right, and IDEA is fortunate to have their collective talents applied to IDEA’s business strategies. I obviously have a great deal of earned trust in and respect of these individuals, and so it is with these qualities that I very much look forward to our work together.”

IDEA would like to acknowledge the preceding Officers, Mr. Steve Calabria (President); Mr. Tom Sharpe (Vice President); and Mr. Homayoun Shorooghi (Secretary/Treasurer) for their years of leadership. Calabria and Sharpe remain on the Board of Directors, while Shorooghi, a founding Member of IDEA, continues to provide assistance as an IDEA legacy resource.

The Officers have already held their first meeting and will meet at regular intervals going forward, further ensuring a proactive leadership body.

For more information, visit www.IDofEA.org.

About IDEA:

The Independent Distributors of Electronics Association (IDEA) was established as a non-profit trade association in 2003 by a group of quality and ethically oriented Independent Distributors of electronic components who wanted to provide the industry with a conduit to improve the access and sharing of information and to advance industry ethics, establish standards, and promote education. In an effort to fulfill this mission, IDEA has published *IDEA-STD-1010: Acceptability of Electronic Components Distributed in the Open Market*, the first quality inspection standard for electronic components distributed in the Open Market; developed the *IDEA-ICE-3000 Professional Inspector Exam*, which continues to garner industry recognition for providing a validated source for the demonstration of competency in inspection skills, knowledge of industry best practices and standards, and research skills; and provides a comprehensive Training Program that offers the knowledge necessary to safely procure from the Open Market and detect substandard or counterfeit characteristics. IDEA strives to increase the confidence of both customers and employers in the quality of electronic components and provides valuable tools in the fight against the proliferation of substandard and counterfeit components.

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