Panel Session 2B: ATE Is Dead—Long Live Automated Test

Coordinator:
B. Schneider, microLEX Systems, Denmark

Chairman:
K. Baker, Philips, The Netherlands

Panel:
G. Robinson, GenRad; J.A. Mielke, Credence; B. Schneider, microLEX Systems; and M. Francis, LTX

With the advent of open system architectures like VXI and open software platforms, e.g. LabVIEW, the traditional ATE business is likely to change significantly over the next few years. Rather than buying large general purpose test systems, the market may prefer to choose tailored, optimised systems, often rather low-cost, based upon open concepts. In such systems the test functionality is largely provided by the software. Hence, the traditional ATE may be dying and the market change to automated test rather than ATE. The question for many is: “Will this happen, when will it happen, and who will be the major players?”