

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Johnstech Releases New Low-Force XL Test Solution for NiPdAu-plated IC Packages to Provide Extended Contact Life, Excellent Performance, and Lower Cost of Test**

**Minneapolis, MN** – Johnstech International Corporation, a global leader of Test Contactor solutions and services for the semiconductor industry, is pleased to announce the release of its new Low-Force XL Contacts for Pad ROL™100A Series and Pad ROL™200 Series Test Contactors for testing NiPdAu IC packages. The new solutions offer longer contact life, extended MTBA, improved continuity, extended load board pad life, and reduced cost of test when testing NiPdAu packages.

A significant percentage of IC packages are migrating from matte tin pads and leads to those using NiPdAu plating. The cost of pre-plated NiPdAu packages has decreased significantly over the last several years making NiPdAu a more cost-effective plating option. In addition, NiPdAu is an excellent alternative to matte tin, particularly when tin whiskering is a concern.

NiPdAu-plated IC packages can present testing challenges. Without the proper socket design, material, and forces, the extreme hardness of NiPdAu material will result in faster pin wear rate, higher spare pin usage and higher overall cost of test. [Click here](#) to read our NiPdAu application brief to learn how to test NiPdAu devices for reliable, repeatable test results.

The new Johnstech Low-Force XL Contacts meet the challenges of NiPdAu packages by providing lower forces (20-30 grams per contact) and a self-cleaning wipe function to achieve longer contact life and higher performance than competitive socket technologies. The name “Low-Force XL Contact” denotes the eXtended Life that these new contacts provide on NiPdAu packages.

In addition to the extended contact life, customers will lower their cost of test significantly with the new Low-Force XL spares by saving 21% - 55%, depending on the quantity purchased and the product selected. The new Low-Force XL Contacts are also included in Johnstech’s SelecTest program, which benefits you by delivering load board documents at the time of quote, Contactor deliveries in less than 2 weeks, and lower acquisition cost.

“The new Low-Force XL Contacts with their extended life performance combined with the lower spares pricing is a one-two punch for delivering lower acquisition costs, lower spares costs, and lower overall cost of test on NiPdAu packages. These contacts provide outstanding performance for testing IC devices such as RF transceivers, filters, and amplifiers for wireless communications applications, and they excel in testing precision analog ICs for power management and analog-to-digital converters.” stated Bill Walkowski, Senior Johnstech Market Manager for the RF/Wireless market and Pad/Leaded Contactor product lines.

Johnstech International Corporation is the leading manufacturer of Test Contactors solutions and services for the global semiconductor industry including RF/Microwave and Precision Analog applications. The company's patented technologies were first introduced to the market in 1992. Johnstech helps characterization and test floor engineers reduce risk, shorten development and test time and improve first pass yields. Johnstech also provides test floor, electrical modeling, thermal modeling and load board optimization services. Johnstech is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota with worldwide sales and support throughout Asia, Europe and the U.S.A. For more information, visit [www.johnstech.com](http://www.johnstech.com).

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