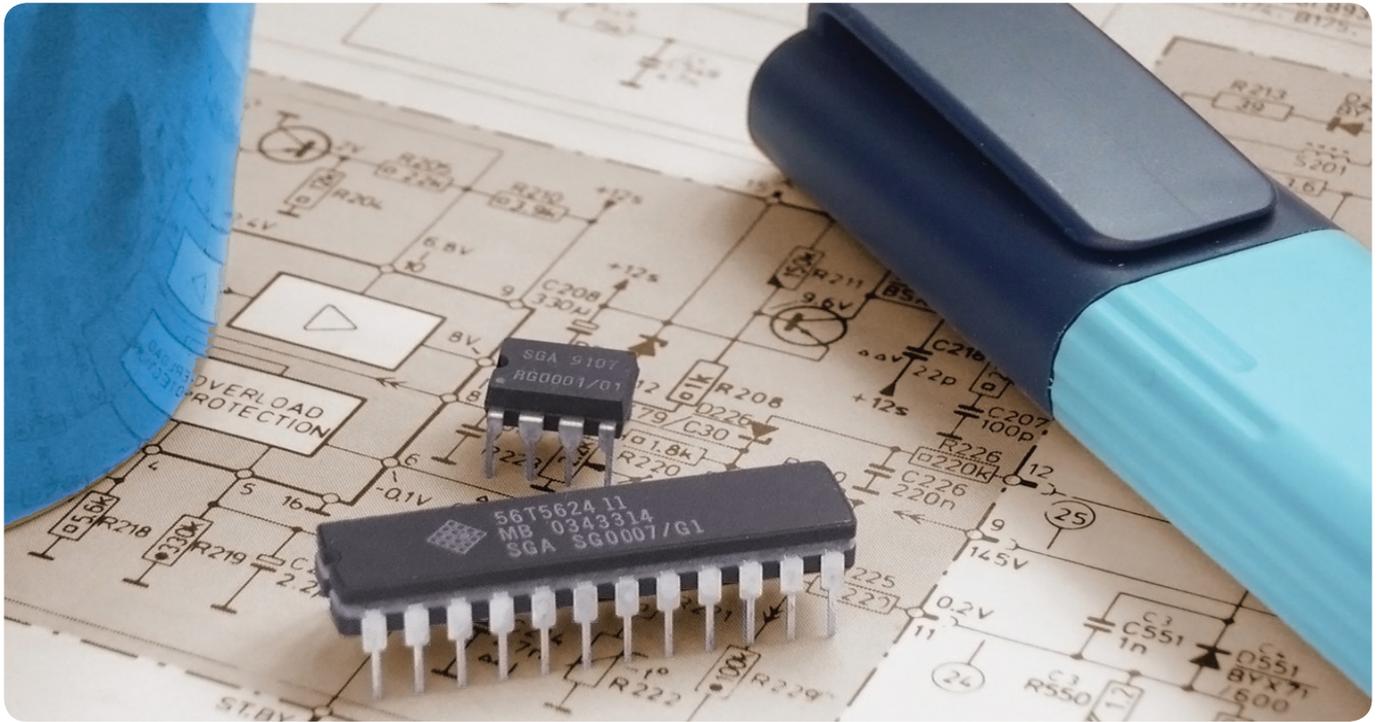




Managing a Last Time Buy



Last Time Buy situations are unfortunately not very rare for integrated circuits. Re-design of a product because of an LTB for a component is not a very productive task and might lead to an expensive re-qualification of the product.

An ASIC from SGA can be designed as a drop-in replacement for an obsolete component and will in this way solve the LTB-problem.

It can happen to anyone at anytime. Your product has been in production for a while and suddenly you get a message from one of your component suppliers. You are told that one component is on its way to obsolescence and you are instructed to do a Last Time Buy.

There is no need for panic. Regardless if it is a standard component or an ASIC, SGA can solve your LTB-problems.

Replacement Component

It is in many cases very hard to estimate future need for a component when you get a Last Time Buy. This is even more so when the expected lifetime for the application that uses the component is long. Placing an order for the remaining life of the application is then not an alternative and you need to find a new solution.

Re-design of a system where an important component is no longer available can be a difficult task. One change affects something else and you end up with a chain of actions that requires huge efforts to sort out.



We have extensive experience from designing replacement components that are fully compatible with existing parts that have turned obsolete. The main advantage with this approach is naturally that we provide a drop-in replacement component. Other parts of the system can therefore be left as they are. Your re-design efforts and the need for re-qualification will in this way be minimized.

Methodology

Making sure that the new ASIC will behave exactly like the existing component requires more than just studying the available component documentation. We know analog design and we understand that the key to the design of a successful custom component is to understand its application. We will together with you find out if your application takes advantage of any unspecified component features or behaviours. This is something that can not be done by just studying a data sheet. Simulation of the design to verify that it will behave exactly as the old component, is part of our normal ASIC design flow.

Design Upgrade

Modern technology offers many possibilities that might not have been available when the original component was designed. One

example is the integration of memory and the possibility to configure/trim the ASIC via a serial interface. This can often be implemented with a preserved pin-out.

If changes to the PCB layout can be accepted then it might be an advantage to replace several components with a single ASIC. This approach may require more system-level re-qualification but can be a cost effective alternative to address an ongoing obsolescence problem. It also allows you to update your product by adding new features to the system.

Long Term Production Supply

Expected life is a very important parameter when we select a manufacturing process for our customers components. It is our business to provide long term production supply and some of our customers have products with an expected life time of 30 years or more.

We can solve your LTB problem by designing a drop-in replacement for an obsolete component. It is our business to provide long term production supply and we will do what it takes to achieve this.

Contact SGA for LTB-related issues