

GENERAL DYNAMICS

Armament and Technical Products

21 May 2013

Kevin Kelly
Guardian Electric Manufacturing Company
1425 Lake Avenue
Woodstock, IL 60098

Dear Kevin,

I am compelled to write this letter to express my sincere appreciation with the support provided by Guardian Electric during the recent failure analysis investigation conducted by Guardian on 4005 Series 10Amp, 4PDT Relays procured by General Dynamics ATP (GDATP) and Ducommun LaBarge Technologies (DLT).

These relays are used in the GDATP MK200 Director Controller which is a critical element of the Aegis Weapon System. GDATP Provides the MK82 Fire Control Director and MK200 Director Controller directly to the US Navy for integration into the Aegis Combat Systems aboard Arleigh Burke Flight IIA Guide Missile Destroyers. Aegis is the most advanced Air Warfare and Missile defense system in the world and is unrivaled in its capability. Needless to say every element of the system is highly regulated and must function with utmost reliability. Lives depend on it.

We experienced Intermittent Relay faults during system acceptance tests on systems slated for DDG116. Working with DLT we contacted Guardian for assistance with understanding the failure mode. Guardian was immediately supportive and fully engaged with DLT and GD to understand the problem.

Mike Wells and Kathy Grupe took ownership of this issue and supported every call and every requested test. Guardian even went out and rented test equipment in order to acquire data in order to define the faults seen.

The investigation and telecons went on for weeks. Mike and Kathy were always professional and forthright with GD and DLT. After much testing and analysis Mike was able to characterize the failure and provide superb technical guidance for GD to bring forth to the US Navy.

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GDATP submitted a technical position paper on this incident leaning heavily on the work completed by Kathy Grupe and Mike Wells. The product improvements proposed by Guardian were included. The paper was reviewed and concurred with by the Integrated Warfare Systems Program Office – My customer.

Today we delivered the Fire Control Director System for DDG116 to the US Navy. GDATP has met its commitment and the Navy will maintain their shipbuilding schedule.

I have been through issues similar to this with other suppliers, and the process is often very painful and the outcome often less than satisfactory. Not with Guardian... you have outstanding people, no push back, and a real commitment to customer satisfaction.

Kudos to Mike, Kathy and other Guardian people who contributed to this effort. Please offer my gratitude to all involved.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Roy". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Michael R. Roy
Program Manager – Weapon Systems
General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products