Counterfeit electronic components have been causing economic impacts, legal conflicts, and health and safety risks for more than 25 years. “Catching” and prosecuting the perpetrators who make up this multi-level counterfeit “industry” is challenging. Some progress has been made recently through cooperation among international governments and corporations. Counterfeit parts are often difficult to identify because desperation due to component shortages, long lead times, and obsolete parts create a ready and profitable grey market.

The two most common methods of identifying counterfeits are visual inspection and electrical test; each involves multiple types of tests that are used depending on the device being examined. The problem is, as the test methods become more sophisticated, so do the methods of the counterfeiters. Adding to the complexity of counterfeiting, documentation is routinely forged to falsely attest to the “legitimacy” of the components. These include Certificates of Conformance and letters of authorization for all levels of product, from high reliability to simple resistors.

SiliconExpert offers a SaaS solution that provides the readily available, sophisticated, relevant, and up-to-the-minute data that buyers need in order to remove counterfeit risk from their supply chain. Through a SiliconExpert BOM analysis, customers around the world manage risk, avoid re-designs, and keep manufacturing interruptions at bay. Customers can learn which components are the likeliest to be counterfeit and which are at high risk for product change notification (PCN) and end-of-life (EOL).

For Complete Information on Mitigating Counterfeit Risk, go to: www.SiliconExpert.com/counterfeit-components