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**NIC COMPONENTS CORP.**

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## COMPANY PRESS NOTICE

**ELECTRONIC**  
BUYERS' NEWS

### **Passives shortage persists**

By Bettyann Liotta

Electronic Buyers' News

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The wave of strong demand that began to sweep through capacitor and SAW-filter supply last year is expected to wash away stock in other portions of the passive-component industry in 2000, analysts say.

Asia's recovery and a growing appetite for parts from several industries, particularly communications, will keep inventory low at manufacturers of such passive components as resistors, fuses, cable, and certain connectors over the next several quarters.

"Every segment of the electronics market is hot now," said Richard Schuster, president of **NIC Components Inc.**, Melville, N.Y. Indeed, NIC Components is actually turning away large orders for small-case-size surface-mount tantalum and multilayer ceramic capacitors, according to Schuster. "Worldwide, there is an approximate 250 million piece-per-month production shortfall for tantalum chips, and a shortfall of roughly three billion pieces per month for ceramics," he noted.

Since several customers have turned to high-capacitance ceramics as well as surface-mount aluminum capacitors in place of tantalum products, lead times for these products are lengthening, according to Schuster. "High-capacitance 10 mF and 22 mF ceramics in the Y5V dielectric are at 30 weeks," he said. Chip resistors are also becoming scarce, he added.

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