Thanks Jim - -

for taking the time to discuss the RJ45 gold (and nickel) plating issues we are witnessing in the marketplace. I recall the ACTA Abstract from March 6, 2008 citing the following observations....

"Connectors continue to be a source of problems for customers. For example, connectors are reaching the marketplace without the requisite amount of gold on the connector contacts."

"All plugs and jacks used for connection to the network, whether at the demarcation point of [sic] connected anywhere to the premises wiring must meet the mechanical requirements specified in Part 68 Subpart F - specifically the dimensions, tolerances and metallic plating requirements."

"In the Reconsideration Order, the Commission noted that sub-standard plugs and jacks have posed a significant problem for consumers. In particular, such plugs and jacks may be difficult to interconnect and may lack the gold plating on the contact interface needed to prevent interference."

***I am sorry to say that all of the above are still true, but the scope and pervasiveness of these problems will shock you.***

Let me explain.....

Sentinel Connector Systems is a major, domestic manufacturer of RJ45 plugs, jacks and patch cable assemblies. Bob Brennan (Founder/President of Sentinel....former Founder/President of Stewart Connector) has been involved with RJ45's since their inception, Bob was actually part of the team that built the first RJ45 back in the 70's while at Hardesty. His Sentinel Team has over 35 patents, including  the most recent being a PROPRIETARY GOLD PLATING PROCESS PATENT. Sentinel invested over $1,000,000 to develop this gold plating process and now enjoy the benefits and patent rights.

Sentinel Connector Systems is also a member of the [Communication Cable and Connectivity Association](http://cccassoc.org) (CCCA), an organization that advocates STANDARDS, COMPLIANCE and ETHICS. This brings us to where we are today. In a recent study sponsored by the CCCA, we found that [85% OF ALL CATEGORY 6 PATCH CORDS FAIL ELECTRICAL TESTING](http://www.cccassoc.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/CCCA-Press-release-CAT-6-patch-Cords.pdf). As an extension of this Working Group, we have begun the second phase of testing on these patch cords.....testing for Gold and Nickel Plating thicknesses. Our results to date show that**.....60% OF ALL RJ45 PLUGS DO NOT HAVE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR GOLD AND NICKEL PLATING AS SPECIFIED IN TIA-1096**. Testing continues, and will be happy to share are findings with ACTA down the road.

Our goal as a company....and also as an Association....is to inform, educate and increase the awareness level in the marketplace about the above problems. By doing so, customers will hopefully make better product selections and get the desired results they are seeking.

As I mentioned in our telephone conversation, I have created a web site that explains (in detail) what the problems are.....and they extend way beyond just plating issues, such as GOLD DIFFUSION and the GALVANIC REACTION BETWEEN TWO DISSIMILAR METALS. As promised, provided below are the links.

[RJ45 GOLD AND NICKEL PLATING ISSUES](http://www.rj45s.com/Gold_Plating_Problems.html)  
  
[RJ45 PLUG AND JACK CONTACT DESIGN](http://www.rj45s.com/Plug_Jack_Contact_Design.html)  
  
[RJ45 PLUG/JACK MATING ISSUES](http://www.rj45s.com/Plug_Jack_Contact_Mating.html)  
  
[BAD RJ45 PLUG TERMINATIONS](http://www.rj45s.com/Bad_Plug_Terminations.html)

Please review this information at your earliest convenience and advise if there are any questions. We look forward to working with ACTA and to the opportunity to be part of the June 16th Open Committee Conference Call.

Thanks again Jim....it was a pleasure speaking with you. Also, per your instructions, I copied [acta@atis.org](mailto:acta@atis.org) on this email (Secretariat, if this is incorrect, please forward). Bob Brennan and Frank Peri (CCCA Director) are copied as well.

Best regards,

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