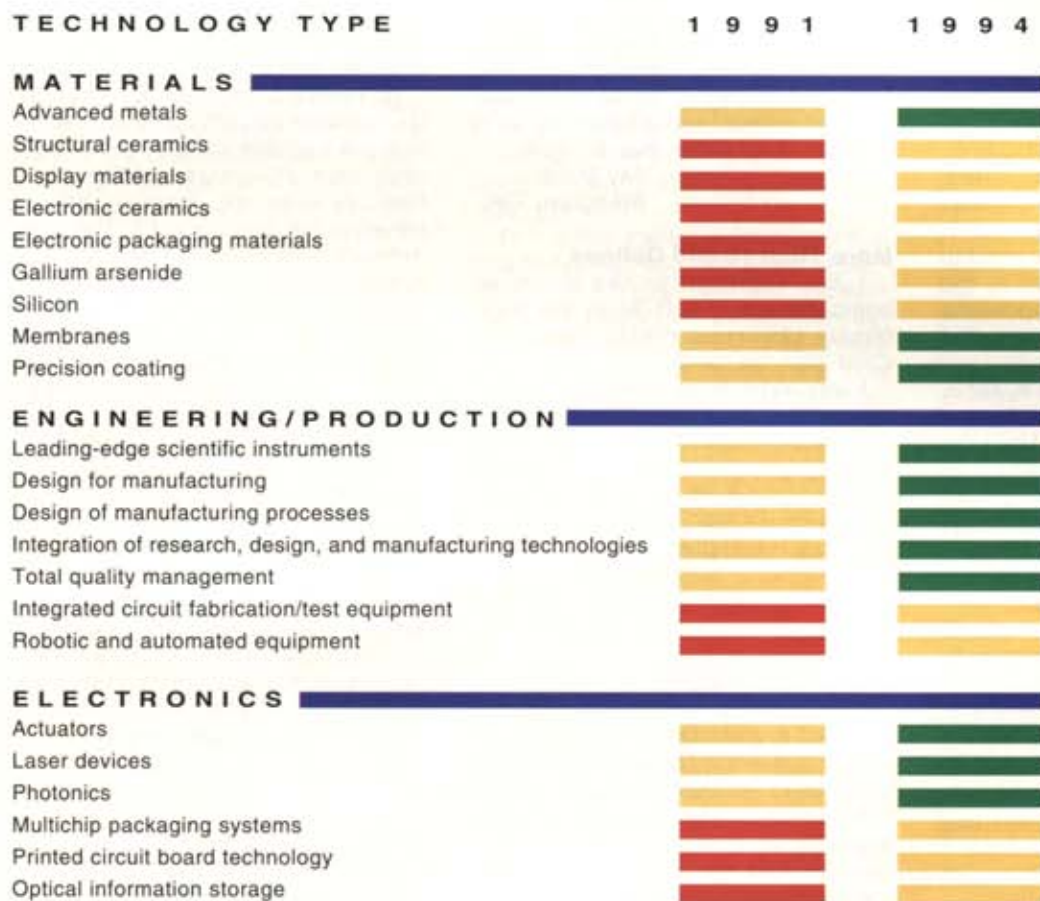


The Chart Page

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

Gaining Ground in Critical Technologies



In 1991, the Council on Competitiveness issued a report that sounded an alarm about the weakening US position in critical technologies. This year, the private-sector, nonprofit organization issued a progress report that gives cause for optimism. One finding is that the US has retained its leading edge in information technology. Another is that the nation has remained competitive in design and engineering tools.

The table shows that over the past three years, the US became competitive in eleven critical technologies where it once lagged.

K E Y

- Competitive** US roughly even with or superior to world's best
- Weak** US lagging or likely to lag within five years
- Losing/lost** US no longer competitive and will not be for five years

Source: Council on Competitiveness, *Critical Technologies Update 1994*. Washington, D. C., September 1994