

Removing the boundary condition hobgoblins for base mounted components in vibration qualification testing

How a modal technique provides a simple modification to the base input mitigating the field-to-laboratory impedance mismatch for high confidence component qualification.

Random vibration laboratory testing is used to qualify components to survive in-service responses to system environments. Using realistic research hardware and an analytical rocket system, we show that traditional single degree of freedom (SDOF) shaker test specifications guarantees large response uncertainties when compared with the field environment responses due to the difference in laboratory boundary conditions. A brief review is provided showing how fixed-base mode shapes are derived from test data. A model utilizing fixed-base and rigid body modes of the component on its vibration test fixture is used to decompose the component field motion into a few intuitive responses. This model demonstrates why 6DOF laboratory control can eliminate large uncertainties in traditional SDOF testing with a corresponding boost in qualification confidence. In fact, the model leads to modified base inputs for a greatly improved SDOF or 3DOF test.

Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.