

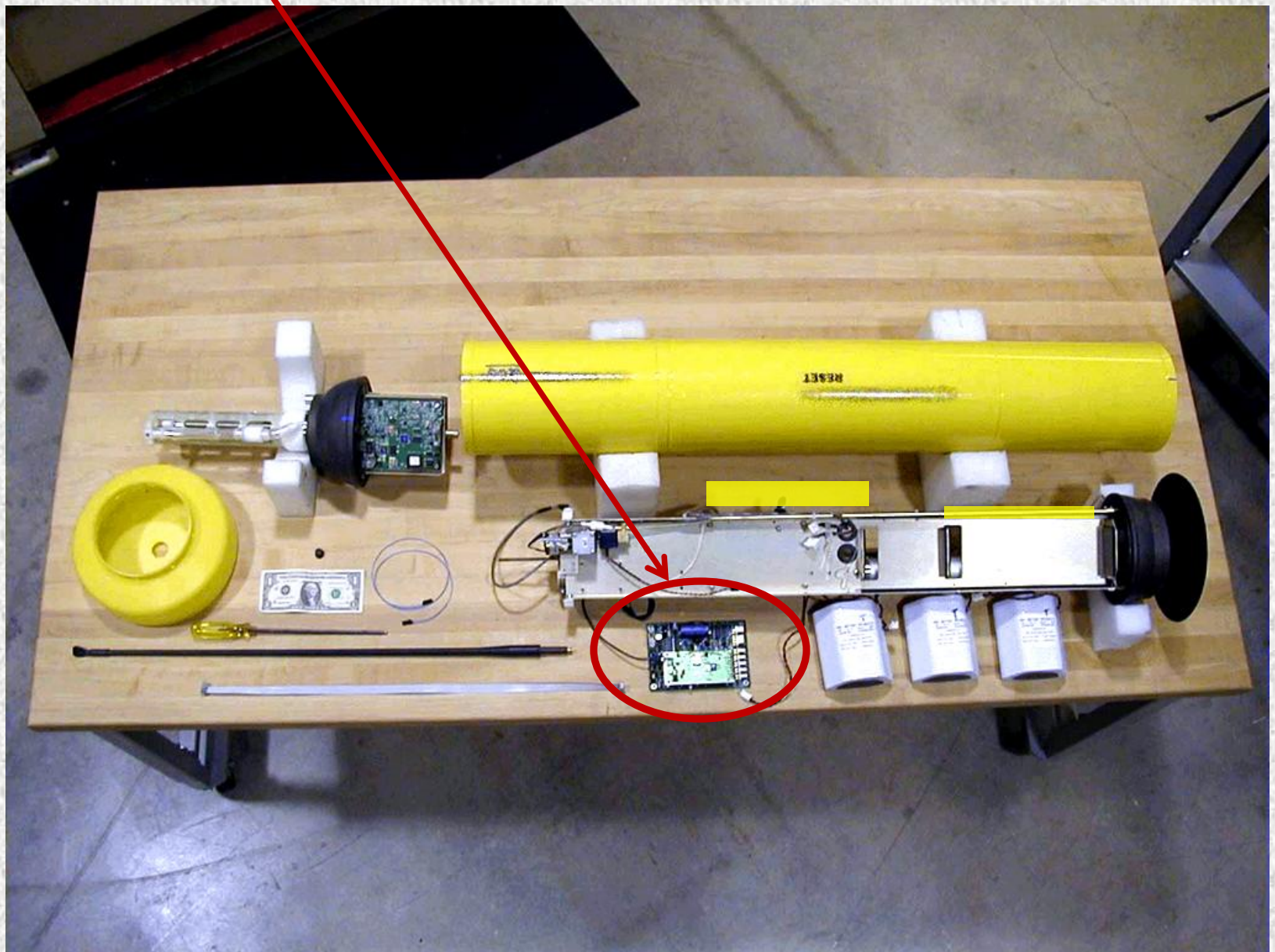
# An Issue in Apex Float Technology

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APF-9 controller



**The APF-9 controller, in use in Apex floats since 2003, is likely to be replaced by a new controller, the APF-11, in the next two years. This is because one of the chips on the board, a PSD935, is no longer being manufactured; as a result, a completely new set of controller electronics and software must be designed.**

**It is unknown exactly how many APF-9 controller boards remain in stock at Teledyne/Webb.**

**Experience has shown that the development cycle of a new controller requires 2-3 years and at least 20-50 deployments for debugging. At this time no new controller hardware or software are known to exist. T/W has not provided a target date for availability or a testing plan, although they have said that the controller is under development.**

**This means that sometime in the near future the Apex/Argo community could be in the position of having to deploy floats with an essentially untested controller.**

**Note: since the SeaBird NAVIS float uses the same controller, NAVIS users will likely have a similar problem.**