

The Challenge of Production Ramp-up in Times of Corona

17.07.2020

In the past months we have taken multiple actions to increase our production output and overall capacity, while still maintaining a high product quality. The challenges we faced in this time were manifold. They included material shortages, due to corona induces closure of suppliers starting in China and then affecting many countries all over the world. We faced quality issues in raw materials, that immediately impacted our production output and long lead times of new production machines that didn't allow us to ramp up production as fast as required by our customers.

Then with the ongoing spread of the virus in more and more countries, also Malaysia faced increasing numbers of corona cases, which resulted in the Malaysian government closing down all companies that were not classified as systemically relevant. Unfortunately, we were included in this lockdown initiated by the Malaysian Movement Control Order (MCO). We were able to obtain an exemption permission after two weeks to resume production under strict conditions. This included reduced manpower, access control, sanitary precautions and social distancing, which could only be achieved by rearranging our production lines. With the remaining staff, we continued production on a low level to keep up the supply of thermopile sensors. Only on the 1st of June we were allowed to start hiring new people, which was the first major progress to increased sensor production.

Since 1st of July our operations manager, who lives in Singapore, is allowed to enter the country again. After a quarantine of 2 weeks, he was allowed to enter our production building on 15th of July for the first time since 4 months of lockdown.

Now the situation in many countries seems to have settled a bit. After we have been able to overcome the biggest challenges our target is to double the weekly sensor production compared to 2019 by the end of the year.

