



## Critical Components Management

Navigating through today's rough seas of component lead time management has become a daunting task. Many industries and supply chains are still suffering through the effects of the pandemic. One only needs to drive by the empty auto dealership lots to see the dramatic effects of electronic component shortages.

*What can we do together? Here are some helpful tips...*

- **Inventory** - The short answer is always to carry more inventory, but in reality that will not work due to lack of availability and potential obsolescence. The key is to **proactively** partner with your suppliers and contract manufacturer (CM) by supplying them with extended forecasts.
- **Component Suppliers** - Whether you are purchasing your components directly or having your CM's source some or all of your requirements, obtaining current global market updates on availability and lead times can be very helpful to your planning processes. Here are some links to key resources for components with information that is helpful to understanding component lead times and projections...
  - <https://www.avnet.com/>
  - <https://www.futureelectronics.com>
  - <https://www.arrow.com>
  - <https://www.analog.com>
  - <https://www.jameco.com>
  - <https://www.digikey.com>
  - <https://www.tti.com>
- **Electronics Industry Updates** - Two regularly updated in-depth resources...
  - <https://www.epsnews.com>
  - <https://www.tti.com> (then click on "Supply Chain News", "Raw Materials Force Majeure" and "Lead Time Trends")
- **Contract Manufacturers** - Working with your CM strategically to tie into establish component resources has become extremely paramount to increasing your chances of success in minimizing delays.
- **Redesign** - In the past this option usually wasn't palatable, but eliminating hard to source components can be a way to mitigate these sourcing issues. During the redesign process it may be helpful to consider Design for Manufacturing (DFM) techniques to help reduce costs while improving quality and reducing production lead times.

### Inventory Availability

As of this month, a Covid variant continues to challenge all 50 states and much of the globe. With some countries in lockdown and others considering reinstating restrictions; it is safe to say component availability will continue to be a challenge into the year 2022. This will require advanced manufacturers that rely on circuit board assemblies to proactively update forecasts to minimize this impact.

Please feel welcome to let SoPark know your component needs and we will check our inventory and our sources to see if there is any way we can be of help to you.



### Upcoming Topics:

- Reshoring
- Design for Manufacturing Tips
- Cables & Harnesses
- Box Builds
- New Inspection Techniques