

Electronic Component Shortages – June 2021

Supply lead times for electronics components have significantly increased. We are seeing lead times from six months to two years for certain parts. We are advising everyone to check your inventory and forecasts and to place forward orders or letters of intent to help with ongoing supply.

New product development is less affected as samples and development kits are available. For projects currently in development we advise ordering enough components for product launch at the schematic stage before a first PCB has been laid out, prototyped or tested. For products with very new devices and those used outside of their main intended application the use of development kits to quickly prove the application may be warranted.

There is a balance of risks to be considered. Any early purchasing and commitment brings risks that the devices could ultimately be unsuitable and have to be scrapped, or potentially sold on. Without early purchasing commitments there could be a year or more of delay between design completion and product launch and therefore revenue.

If you have an existing product with supply chain problems, there may be opportunity to add alternative component sources or to undertake an element of redesign to minimise disruption. This may still require prototypes to be built, tested and taken through compliance.

Grey market components should be used with extreme caution with due diligence undertaken on the supplier and checks on the components, packaging, storage and provenance.

If you want to talk to someone about the electronic component shortages and explore options to help you tackle the ongoing situation, please use our website [contact page](#) or use the contact details at the top of this statement.

Richard Fletcher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RFL", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Managing Director

