



Company Bulletin

for EMC, EMP, HEMP & TEMPEST Protection

Issue 29



Has just-in-time had its day in automotive assembly plants?



Large HEMP filter order being shipped from MPE



Fully laden container ships arrive in dock

Is on-time delivery a thing of the past?

We increasingly regard on-time delivery as a thing of the past, with much of our manufacturing industry now suffering extended lead-times for supply, product shortages and frequent last-minute changes to schedules.

Arguably “just-in-time” inventory management has had its day in, for example, automotive production, owing to the restricted supply of components and subsystems required for assembly. The lack of semiconductor chips for electronic control units is well known.

Nevertheless, since 2019 MPE as a company has worked long and hard to mitigate the impacts which current price and supply chain pressures have exerted on its own international and UK client base and to achieve an average on-time delivery as high as 95%.

Such pressures, coupled with the company’s unprecedented period of growth, have indeed presented some of the greatest challenges that MPE has ever faced. Since the start of 2019 MPE has seen an almost 50% increase in output.

Regular dialogue has been critical with clients and integrators of MPE’s EMC, EMP, HEMP and TEMPEST filter solutions. Equally, keeping in close touch with critical suppliers every step of the way has allowed MPE to plan its own procurement and stockholding with accuracy, ensuring that manufacturing schedules have been maintained.

In addition MPE has sought to expand its supply base and migrate to more local suppliers wherever possible. Such expansion has proved to be a key element in reducing the risk of stock shortages or production issues.

MPE has also increased its stockholding of single-source or long lead-time components – as buffer stock retained either at MPE’s facility or at the supplier’s premises.

Meanwhile unforeseeable delays in the shipping of component materials to MPE and of finished product to clients can be caused by transportation issues, the dearth of shipping containers, and both increased protocols and the lack of trained staff at dockside. So for these areas MPE employs ship tracking applications to provide weekly, and even daily, logistics reports.

Accordingly, despite all the immense challenges described, across 2021 MPE achieved a 94% on-time delivery in full to the day and a 96% on-time delivery in full to the week against the original acknowledgement dates. At MPE, on-time delivery is a reality and not a pipe dream.