

Bad news from Hjelmslund Electronics – the global semiconductor shortage have hit us.

It happened to Sony and their PS5, to Apple and their iPhone-13, to Mercedes, Porsche, VW and many other car manufacturers, and now it happened for Hjelmslund Electronics too – the big semiconductor disaster have hit us 😞

All our RS232 and RS485 converters are based on the FT232R USB bridge chip from FTDI, but because of the global semiconductor crisis it is now impossible to get, and our stock is empty of both that chip and shelf products.

We had promises for new supplies in september 2021, but it failed anyway, and now we hope for supplies in january 2022, but we don't rely on that promise, so we have decided to make a completely new design with another USB bridge chip, the CP2102N from Silabs.

The new converter will be available for sale from december 2021, and of course we do anything possible to have them available as soon as possible, and we have now plenty of CP2102Ns on stock (We learned from our mistakes!) so there shouldn't be any problems to deliver after that date.

Hardware wise there will be no changes for the users of the converters, but software wise there is a little issue with the CP2102N.

All operating systems on all computers, have drivers implemented for the until now used FT232R chip, so it was not necessary to manually install drivers for our existing converter, but our new product with the CP2102N requires driver installation (We will make the drivers available for downloads from our website).

The driver installation is a simple process, but we know that some few of our customers are inhibited, by security reasons, to install drivers on the computers. We regret the complications, but unfortunately this is the best solution we can come up with for now.

Summary : From now and until december 2021 we cannot supply any converters. From december will come a new, CP2102N based, converter that require driver installation. We will probably make the original driverless converters when the FT232R will be available again, but have no idea when that can happen.

Sorry for the inconvenience

Adrian Hjelmslund

Hjelmslund Electronics