

## An insight into STARTEAM GLOBAL's Smart Manufacturing factory in Thailand

As announced at the end of 2022, STARTEAM GLOBAL is well on its way to open the doors of our Thailand factory before the end of the year. For this to happen, rigorous planning is needed and has already started. Through the process so far, it has been decided to run the new factory under a Smart Manufacturing system.

Smart Manufacturing systems are fully integrated, collaborative manufacturing systems that respond to changes in demands or conditions in the factory in real time. While this is the common definition which can be found, we wanted to get a deeper understanding of the subject, as well as define what Smart Manufacturing means to us. To achieve the best results for this, we hosted a Smart Manufacturing workshop on-site of our Thailand factory. Around twenty of our STG experts participated in the workshop, alongside our partners that will help us in the set-up of our factory. The workshop lasted three days with all the time spent there being dedicated to find a clear Smart Manufacturing system that will perfectly suit our needs.



*Hauke Otten, STARTEAM GLOBAL COO, leading the introduction of the workshop*



One of the crucial aspects we wanted to define from the beginning was what the word 'smart' means to us. Our definition of 'smart' is:

*"To decide and act rationally based on the information given at a certain point in time and continuously improve on this."*

When looking at behaving smart from the angle of the information that is available to one, it makes it clear that to give yourself the best chances of acting smart is done by having the best and most reliable information available. The information needed to improve processes in a factory is the production data, the core of our Smart Manufacturing system. The aim is to collect as much data from our production as possible, which will then be stored in a cloud. The data collection will be facilitated by a Manufacturing Execution System, which will allow us to view live data from any process in our plant. Each process will get its own data model to achieve the most accurate results, which is important as accurate data will lead to accurate interpretations. By connecting the machines and operators to a closer level, more efficient production plans can be made to reduce things such as cost or waste.

With a system like this in place, we can focus on long term goals in our production, one of these being product traceability, which will allow full transparency towards all our stakeholders. Another advantage this gives us the ability to predict matters such as machine maintenance and the quality of the board, which allows us to be as flexible as possible.

All these features will allow us to progress to a leaner manufacturing style, thus being able to eliminate unnecessary waste such as transportation, time, defects and overproduction. This will be a further way we continue to offset the size of our carbon footprint.

All these features and eventual results are what convinced us of Smart Manufacturing. We are always looking to be more efficient in our production, and this data analysis driven way of planning the production will allow us to do just that.

*STARTEAM GLOBAL is a globally recognized printed circuit board manufacturer with 30 years of experience in the industry. We Exceed Manufacturing by delighting our customers with sustainability in everything we do. Our factory in Sichuan province, China manufactures PCBs to the highest quality and reliability standards, including automotive, medical and railway safety requirements, supported by our engineering and quality experts. STARTEAM GLOBAL strives to deliver the most competitive premium products and supply solutions to satisfy all your PCB requirements. Visit us on [www.starteam.global](http://www.starteam.global) for further information.*