

PRODUCTIVITY-WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Bernard Krieger-Cober Electronics, Inc.

The improvement of productivity is one of the principal advantages offered by the microwave industry to factory managers. High speed, improved product quality, and automation are among the major advantages. Also, "selective heating" sounds good and non-thermal effects even better. However, the customer who usually is the factory manager views "productivity" in terms of uninterrupted and predictable production with minimum scrap and the lowest material cost possible consistent with stated quality standards. His personal pay is based upon how he meets these criteria. In fact, if he does not meet his quotas and budgets, he usually does not last long on the job. As a result he plays safe!

The conservative nature of US industry often places a burden on the introduction of innovative technologies such as microwaves. Plus, lack of specific process experience on the part of the microwave manufacturer often leads to test trials, which only add more uncertainty for the conservative user.

This paper will present ideas about how the microwave manufacturer and the factory manager can blend their objectives into common goals.