



Strengthening Penang's IC Design Ecosystem through Flexible Access to Advanced Test Solutions

Electro Rent and InvestPenang | Shared Lab for IC Design Validation and Characterisation

THE SITUATION

Penang, Malaysia is advancing its position as a leading semiconductor hub in Asia. Under the Penang Silicon Design @5KM+ (PSD@5KM+) initiative led by InvestPenang, a new Shared Lab for IC Design Validation and Characterisation was being established to support the state's growing IC design ecosystem.

The Shared Lab provides:

- Advanced post-silicon validation and characterisation capabilities
- Access to high-performance test and measurement solutions
- A collaborative platform connecting government, industry, and academia
- Support for emerging IC design startups accelerating product development

To get the lab up and running, InvestPenang needed access to high-end instrumentation, without the burden of heavy upfront investment or lengthy procurement cycles.

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THE CHALLENGE

Post-silicon validation requires sophisticated, high-performance test instruments. Startup and scaleup IC design companies face a number of common challenges:

- Upfront CAPEX investment can be prohibitive
- Test requirements evolve rapidly as designs progress
- Manufacturer lead times can delay development cycles
- Equipment ownership introduces financial and asset risks

To fulfil the PSD@5KM+ vision of accelerating innovation and reducing barriers to entry, the InvestPenang needed a solution that offered:

- Immediate access to advanced test instruments
- Financial predictability with minimum use of capital
- Scalability as the ecosystem grows
- Reduced ownership risk

THE SOLUTION

Through a strategic agreement with InvestPenang, Electro Rent supported the shared lab with flexible rental solutions that enabled fast access to advanced test capabilities. This approach helped the lab:

- Avoid heavy upfront capital expenditure
- Deploy test capabilities quickly
- Scale equipment access based on project demand
- Provide IC design startups with high-performance tools without long-term ownership commitments

By delivering the right equipment at the right time, Electro Rent helps IC design startups accelerate validation cycles and bring innovations to market faster.

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THE CONCLUSION

Through its collaboration with InvestPenang, Electro Rent plays an ongoing strategic role in strengthening Penang's semiconductor design ecosystem.

By providing flexible access to advanced validation and characterisation solutions, Electro Rent continues to:

- Lower financial barriers for IC design startups
- Accelerate innovation velocity within the ecosystem
- Support scalable growth of semiconductor startups

This partnership demonstrates how flexible equipment access models can accelerate technology ecosystems, empowering engineers to innovate with confidence without the cost and risk of purchasing high-value equipment.

CONTACT US

From rental and leasing to certified used equipment and asset management, Electro Rent provides flexible solutions that help organizations access the right technology at the right time, while maintaining flexibility and reducing financial and operational risk.

To learn more about Electro Rent test and measurement solutions, contact our team today.

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