

Local Pyranometer Calibrations in Germany

Kipp & Zonen recently installed an automated calibration facility at Gengenbach Messtechnik e.K. near Stuttgart in Germany. Pyranometer users in Germany and Switzerland can now benefit from faster calibrations to Kipp & Zonen factory standards.



Previously, Gengenbach Messtechnik had to send customer pyranometers to Kipp & Zonen in the Netherlands for inspection, service and calibration; thus causing longer turnaround times and extra transport costs.

Rolf Gengenbach, director and owner of Gengenbach Messtechnik, says, “It was sometimes frustrating that I couldn’t serve my customers more. Now I’m in control of the turnaround time and at the same quality level as Kipp & Zonen requires for its factory and office calibrations. I can now provide a faster service with less measurement downtime for my customers.”

“We prepared a special black-painted and air-conditioned room for the facility to create the required controlled environment and we were trained extensively by Kipp & Zonen specialists to completely understand the procedures and system.”

One of our key corporate values is Passion for Precision and Kipp & Zonen pyranometers are recognized as the best and most reliable solar radiation measurement instruments. However, some maintenance is required; primarily cleaning the dome and the replacement of desiccant in some models. Recalibration every two years is strongly recommended to maintain optimum measurement accuracy.

Pyranometers are calibrated according to the ISO 9847:1992 standard, which refers to the ‘Kipp & Zonen device and procedure’. The sensitivity of the test pyranometer is determined by comparing it to a traceable reference instrument of the same type and under stable conditions.

“We sometimes see pyranometers calibrated at other laboratories, which have significantly different sensitivities when compared to using our facilities.” says Clive Lee, Customer Services Specialist at Kipp & Zonen. “Since we have a history of thousands of instruments recalibrated in-house, we can conclude that the quality of other calibrations in the market is not always perfect.”

All instrument calibration information and history is logged in a central database and quality checked. Sensitivity changes can be monitored and Kipp & Zonen pyranometers are proven to be very stable through time.

Rolf Gengenbach shares this Passion for Precision, “It is a great pleasure for me to be able to serve my customers locally to Kipp & Zonen standards. I’m proud to have the ‘Kipp & Zonen Approved Calibration Facility’ stamp on my website”.

Rolf Gengenbach and Kipp & Zonen have a special relationship going back over 20 years. “This first automated calibration facility outside Kipp & Zonen offices is an expression of our mutual trust. Kipp & Zonen acknowledges the high level of experience and knowledge at Gengenbach Messtechnik e.K. by this next step in our distribution relationship.” says Xander van Mechelen, CCO of Kipp & Zonen.

All local Kipp & Zonen automatic calibration facilities provide the same high quality as at the factory. The facility at Gengenbach Messtechnik is identical to the existing facilities at the Kipp & Zonen offices in the USA, Singapore and France.

The calibration software and server in Delft manages the entire calibration process remotely and stores all the data and records, providing consistency and preventing operator mistakes.

The facilities are fully supported by the Customer Services and Research & Development departments of Kipp & Zonen. The support team remotely monitors calibration performance, and audits all calibration facilities bi-annually to verify the procedures and technical systems.

Local calibrations are part of a range of new service concepts at Kipp & Zonen, bringing support closer to our customers. The next local facility will soon be installed at Equinox Instruments Limited, bringing faster calibration services to our customers in the UK and Ireland ■

Gengenbach Messtechnik e.K. was founded in 1991 by Rolf Gengenbach to provide measurement solutions, and is the exclusive distributor of the Kipp & Zonen portfolio in Germany and Switzerland.

For local calibrations of Kipp & Zonen pyranometers in Germany or Switzerland, please call +49-(0)7153-9258-0 or e-mail to info@rg-messtechnik.de