

Case Study – Lean Management



Team

Brain Butler - RKMS
Paul Bullivant - RKMS
Mike Lawson - Unison

“The Lean program is forcing us to think about the way we work and how it can be improved; putting a cost on the waste reduction makes the improvements feel worthwhile and valuable.

The Management Training course was professionally delivered, with concepts put across in a comprehensible manner. We have all been able to take something away from the insight day. “

Mike Lawson – Design Manager

Project Objectives

To identify productivity improvement through lean management techniques via the manufacturing Advisory Service programme.

Background

Unison provides tube bending machines to companies producing components to the automotive, aerospace and shipbuilding industries. The company have experienced strong growth over the past couple of years.

Assistance Provided

The company senior management were introduced to the concept of ‘Lean’ thinking & the tools and techniques associated with ‘Lean’. This was achieved using the Insight Day titled ‘A Practical introduction to Lean manufacturing’ and was delivered by Paul Bullivant to the senior management team (a total of 5 employees) The senior management mapped the processes used by the business & identified the main areas where it was felt improvements could be made. Junior managers were then consulted to ensure agreement, and an improvement team was given the task of investigating the current situation and presenting improvement options.

The mains areas of focus were: -

- Performance management
- Lean Manufacturing
- Workplace organisation
- Process mapping

Outcomes

- Assembly/Stores – Better communication of information – approx. saving of **£6k pa**
- Assembly – Better handling of fabrications – approx. saving of **£5k pa**
- Assembly – Multi-skilling of stores staff – approx. saving of **£1k pa**
- Other projects relevant to the machine shop & suppliers are on-going and data collection is taking place, the company are confident that these will produce savings in excess of **£15K pa**
- The Insight Day proved very successful of highlighting the benefits of ‘Lean’ and this has given additional impetus to the ongoing improvement projects.

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management, environmental health &
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RKMS
Lancaster House, Amy Johnson Way
Blackpool, Lancashire FY4 2RP
T: 0844 815 7765 E: info@rkmsuk.co.uk W: www.rkmsuk.co.uk