

Lean Manufacturing With Molecules; Profit Finders Goes Molecular

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(PRWeb) February 23, 2007 -- The concepts of lean manufacturing and continuous improvement have been taken from the Toyota Production System and applied to many different businesses around the world. Although these concepts were initially developed in Toyota's automotive production environment with a focus on manufacturing and assembly operations, they have been successfully applied to service, engineering, and administrative areas. Profit Finders is now taking continuous improvement to the molecular level.

"Kaizen or continuous improvement is a never-ending process - there is no finish line. It is natural when applying the principles of continuous process improvement to initially focus on people, equipment, and tools; however, in the spirit of truly striving for perfection we are leading the move to take kaizen to the molecular level," said Tom Fabek General Manager of Profit Finders.

Profit Finders has assembled a team of experts in a number of factory processes including anodizing, metalworking fluids, cleaners, surface treatments, and finish coatings. With the help of special monitoring equipment, they go deep into areas of the factory that typically do not get enough attention.

"We like to say that we are taking lean manufacturing and continuous improvement to the molecular level. We use special equipment to gather hard data that can be used to drive a professional continuous improvement program." noted Tom Troxil, Director of Technology for Profit Finders.

One of the paradoxes of kaizen is that you must standardize work in order to continuously improve. By standardizing you can measure activities and results, but standards are not fixed. Standards are constantly challenged and changed for the better. Most factories are not doing a good job of standardizing the chemical processes that are part of their operations. They simply don't have the technical expertise to gather the required information. This is where Profit Finders comes in.

"At Profit Finders, our typical approach is to put our monitoring technology into a potential client's factory for 60 days. We call this a process audit. It is analogous to a doctor taking x-rays, a cat scan, or blood tests before they make a diagnosis. We gather data for 60 days and then come back to the client with a prescription for driving out waste." commented Thomas Rogers, VP Business Development for Profit Finders.

All baseline data is gathered without interfering with current operations. Measurements are taken 24x7 and all process charts can be viewed via the Internet from a secure password protected portal. By using hard data, Profit Finders can set clear and measurable goals for reducing costs. These costs can be in the areas of energy consumption, wastewater, improved product quality, reduced chemical consumption, lower scarp/rework/rejects, and reduced downtime.