

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

GE Sensing

Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension Inc

Cell Restructure at GE Sensing

Client Profile:

GE Sensing is located in Añasco, Puerto Rico, and is dedicated to the manufacturing of temperature sensors for medical devices and automotive applications. The company has been in business in Puerto Rico since 1988 and employs 80 people.

Situation:

GE Sensing was not meeting the requirements of its clients. Daily output only met 85 percent of customer demand. This created customer complaints, conflicting shop floor priorities, large in-process inventory. The Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension Inc (PRiMEX), a NIST MEP network affiliate, was contacted to assist with the situation.

Solution:

PRiMEX recommended a Kaizen plan. It started off with the re-layout of the production line into two manufacturing cells to minimize inventory and transportation, which would reduce overtime hours. Kanban supermarkets were identified, implemented and monitored. The employees were trained on lean manufacturing techniques. Metrics were established and followed up by designated personnel. Areas of concern and future opportunities were highlighted, and a 30-day action plan was developed to ensure continuous Lean culture and Kaizen activities are sustained.

Results:

- * Reduced work in process by 25 percent.
- * Reduced transportation/move by 50 percent.
- * Reduced cycle time by 30 percent.
- * Reduced space by 30 percent.
- * Exceeded customer expectations by 100 percent.
- * Minimized overtime.
- * Improved employee participation.

Testimonial:

"The Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension Inc. provided the expertise and resources required to achieve a successful implementation of Lean Manufacturing practices in our operation."

Victor Balaguer, Plant Manager