Exceeda Consulting, Inc.
Customer Spotlight Edition

A Customer Success Story

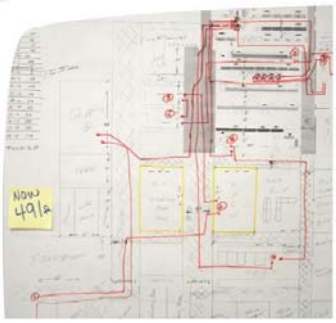
VR Industries Gets Lean

VR Industries is a full-service electronic contract manufacturer. Through the implementation and utilization of Lean tools and techniques they have created an employee-empowered culture, significantly improved workflow and retooled their operation to not only compete in this new economy, but once again begin to thrive.

Recognizing the changing business culture and increased global competition, VR embarked on a journey to improve their company's operation in order to remain competitive. In January 2011, they embraced Lean as the answer and have been working on Lean transformational activities with Exceeda Consulting ever since. The success or failure of building a Lean culture falls squarely on the shoulders of the business leaders. At VR, President & CEO, Brian Pestana, motivates, inspires and encourages creative thinking and innovative solutions for today's business challenges.

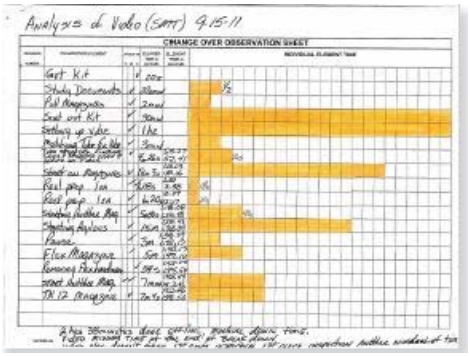
Under Brian's leadership along with Brad Vogltance, Operations and Value Stream Manager, VR Industries has taken an active leadership role in the development and implementation of forward thinking lean manufacturing principles within their organization. They have embarked on a journey that gently molds the culture into one that strives to continuously refine and improve their operations. This culture embraces employee empowerment and challenges employees to engage in an open and transparent type of environment. They encourage all employees to join in on the journey and to embrace the desire to learn.

Some of the Benefits of Lean at VR Industries



VR reorganized their entire manufacturing operation and established work cells by analyzing workflow and constraints. One analysis tool used was spaghetti diagrams to identify motion waste and unlock opportunities to improve the layout. This effort reduced the travel distance of circuit board assemblies by 62%. The result was a travel reduction averaging 841.5 feet for each circuit board assembled. By utilizing their space more effectively ...they eliminated bottlenecks, minimized material handling cost, provided greater employee flexibility and improved quality. The new workflow opened up 5,000 square feet of manufacturing floor space.

VR is using their newly acquired knowledge of problem solving methods by holding Kaizen events. VR has begun documenting improvement opportunities and fostering a mindset of employee participation and empowerment to solve both small and large problems. At VR, employees are focused on making changes on a regular basis ...always improving productivity, safety and effectiveness while reducing waste. Brad Vogltance recognizes that they have been "critical to achieving our goal of an across the board culture change of lean minded and empowered employees", he goes on to say "these Kaizen events and the ideas that drive them have proven to be like gold".



Additional excellent results have been recognized with the implementation of Single Minute Exchange of Die (SMED) methodology. The primary focus of SMED is rapid changeover from one job to the next thereby reducing machine downtime. Using the newly implemented SMED methods, they have been able to reduce the allotted job time from 16.28 hours to 3.32 hours. This has opened up an additional 12.96 hours of daily machine capacity as compared to previous methods ...an 80% reduction in machine downtime!

Using Business Process Mapping, VR employees evaluated their "current state" pre-production administrative processes including; Purchase Order Receipt, Contract Review, Sales Order Entry, Material Procurement, Job Scheduling, Material Receipt and Document Creation. This mapping process allowed them to identify non-value activities and bottlenecks in the process. Once complete, VR implemented a new "future state" where operations were simplified, non-value activities eliminated and bottlenecks removed resulting in reduced process time and improved quality results.

Brian Pestana recognizes, "the speed and efficiency at which we improved our operations would not have been possible without the leadership, education and guidance by Tom Pesaturo and his firm, Exceeda Consulting".

Tom Pesaturo from Exceeda acknowledges that VR "has fully embraced Lean and the benefits associated with it, VR is looking forward to expanding its Lean acumen during 2012 to continue improving their organization through business process improvement."

About Exceeda Consulting, Inc.

Exceeda Consulting, Inc. are experts in implementing lean tools, techniques and methodologies to maximize value and minimize waste in business processes to provide the greatest opportunity for profit improvement. Our true north is protecting jobs in America by helping companies stay competitive!

About VR Industries

VR Industries is a full-service electronic contract manufacturer, serving a diverse group of customers in the military, medical, industrial, and green energy markets. Manufacturing services range from printed circuit board assemblies to complete system integration and testing through to final assembly. Industrial controls, medical instrumentation and military systems are common products manufactured. With the implementation of robust quality systems supported by lean principles and the development of the 'right' personnel, VR Industries has created a culture of continuous improvement and employee empowerment. This teamwork culture has provided increased flexibility and the ability to consistently exceed their customers' needs. This has set them apart from their competition, making them an invaluable asset to their customers and a renowned leader in their industry.
Visit VR Industries Online

Want a Tour of VR Industries?

VR Industries has developed into a 'lean' leader in the region. They believe in giving back to the community and sharing lessons learned. On a regular basis, VR provides facility tours to local companies and educational facilities. These tours include lessons in the implementation of lean manufacturing principles, resulting advantages, and the story of their transformation. They are proud of their accomplishments and enjoy sharing. VR believe's that their lean culture revolution has been the key to their transformation as an organization and will serve as the foundation of their future success. Call Brad to arrange your tour today at (401) 732-6800.

Exceeda Consulting, Inc.

Visit us online to learn more

Office: 508-557-1803

Fax: 904-369-3155

Email: info@exceeda.net

Exceeda is a Certified Woman-Owned Business