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Breaks Ground on Plant Expansion

Neosho Manufacturer Continues Process Improvement Program

Cape Girardeau

Columbia

Ft. Leonard
Wood

Kansas City

Kirksville

Park Hills

Rolla

Springfield

St. Louis

West Plains

K & S Wire Products, Neosho, has selected Missouri Enterprise for phase III of a continuing manufacturing improvement program that will help the company add value to its products and reduce waste in all its operations, according to company President Gene Schwartz.

K & S Wire Products was founded 10 years ago, but the management/ownership group has more than 100 years experience in the wire forming and welding industry. The company manufactures a variety of steel CNC wire forms, grills, grates, display units and custom products for various other manufacturers and for consumer use.

"In phases I and II of the program, Missouri Enterprise helped us with an introduction to "Lean Enterprise" methods, value stream mapping, 5S and setup reduction training and implementation," Schwartz said.

"Lean Enterprise" is a systematic means of identifying waste in a company's operations and reducing or eliminating those activities that do not add value to the company's products.



A K & S employee removes a wire frame from a state-of-the-art CNC wire forming machine.

A value stream map is a graphical representation of all the activities, both value added and non-value added, that are required to bring the product from raw material to the customer. A future state map is a guide to areas in the process that can be improved.

5S is a method of perpetuating an organized, clean and efficient workplace that reduces waste and non-value added activity while improving quality, efficiency and safety. The five S's are sort, set in order, shine, standardize and sustain.

Setup reduction refers to decreasing the time that it takes to change a specific machine or production line from the manufacture of one product to another.

Value stream mapping, 5S and setup reduction are "Lean Enterprise/Continuous Improvement" tools.

Phase III will enable K & S employees to utilize Total Productive Maintenance and Poke Yoke Quality at the Source methods and will introduce "Lean Office" concepts to the administrative staff. In addition, selected employees will learn how to conduct "Lean" assessments in other company operations.

Concurrent with their phase III continuous improvement program, Schwartz says, the company is constructing an addition to its Neosho plant that adds nearly 30,000 square feet to the existing facility.

The new space will be used to house a new painting and powder coating operation for which the company has purchased all of the necessary equipment and machines. This expansion will enable the company to add value to products and keep the work at its Neosho plant. Currently, the company must send this work to facilities in other states.

Phase III of the continuous improvement program is scheduled for completion in early 2006 and the new addition should be occupied before the end of 2005, Schwarz said.

Missouri Enterprise Project Manager Shelly Hillhouse will provide training and implementation assistance to K & S Wire Products during Phase III of the program.

Louisiana, MO Trailer Manufacturer Continues Process Improvement Program

TrailerMan Trailers, Inc. has begun the third phase of an ongoing continuous improvement program, including employee training and implementation of "Lean Enterprise" principles in the company's Louisiana manufacturing plant.

"Lean Enterprise" is a systematic means of identifying waste across a company and eliminating those activities that do not add value to a product or service.

According to company owners Charlie and Mary Perkins, the company's continuous improvement efforts and ongoing efforts to eliminate waste help it maintain its position in the highly competitive global marketplace.

"And, working with a skilled, dedicated organization like Missouri Enterprise makes continuous improvement much easier," they said. "They have been with us throughout our program, helping us through the difficult spots," Mary said.

The company is an industry leader in the design and manufacture of pull behind trailers under 26,000# Gross Vehicle Weight Rating. Their trailers range from small single axel trailers for law and utility equipment up to 44 foot dual wheel equipment hauling trailers.

The Perkins started manufacturing trailers some 15 years ago. Since then the company has enjoyed steady growth by offering high quality, competitively priced trailers and by focusing on customer service. In 2000, the company moved into a new manufacturing facility and has since then expanded their facility twice.

TrailerMan Trailers are sold via a network of dealers in a number of Midwestern states.

Missouri Enterprise Project Manager Steve Andriano is supervising the project at TrailerMan Trailers, Inc.

Sainte Genevieve Manufacturer Earns ISO Registration

Ultraflo Corporation, a Sainte Genevieve manufacturer of butterfly valves and accessories, has received its ISO 9001:2000 registration, according to Mike Lurk, company general manager.

Throughout registration efforts, Missouri Enterprise Project Manager Dewayne Whitener helped us understand the ISO process, so we were able to avoid false starts, unnecessary work and delays, Lurk said.

To support company efforts during the registration process, Missouri Enterprise provided Ultraflo with training, documentation preparation and implementation assistance, auditing and on-site support.

Ultraflo serves a broad range of customers in the transportation, industrial, food and chemical processing, power, pneumatic conveying and municipal markets. "Our products control the flow of powders, pellets and fluids of all kinds, in all types of applications," Lurk said, "so our quality standards have to be very high."

To achieve ISO 9001: 2000 registration, Ultraflo passed a rigorous audit by Perry Johnson Registrars, Inc (PJR), a full service provider of independent, 3rd-party quality and environmental system audits. The registration audit took place July 11-13, 2005. Auditor, Mr. Winston Bailey, felt that

Ultraflo was very sincere in its commitment to ISO.

"Ultraflo uses ISO to have a higher standard of quality; this positive attitude was essential to the success of the company's registration audit," Bailey said.

Lurk said the company is committed to meeting and exceeding all customer requirements and expectations and to continually improving its quality management system.

"Registration is a major step in maintaining our business position and product quality in support of our customers," he said.

Lurk also praised company employees for their efforts, saying, "We are proud of this achievement and the way our staff performed during the preparation and the audit."



Missouri Enterprise to Assist Code 3 With Quality Assurance System

Code 3 has asked Missouri Enterprise to study its procedures for manufacturing emergency vehicle sirens and lighting and compare them with state-of-the-art practices.

Code 3, headquartered in St. Louis, is a leader in emergency warning equipment for U.S. and international markets.

"This project with Missouri Enterprise is part of our ongoing drive to ensure quality in the equipment we provide for police, fire and other emergency vehicles," said Robert Kreutzer, vice president of engineering for Code 3.

"Code 3 has been ISO9001:2000 certified since 1995, and by continuing to analyze and improve our procedures, we build on the confidence that this international standards certification gives customers," Kreutzer added.

"For this project, we will prepare a detailed report on the best automotive and aerospace industry quality assurance standards and procedures, analyze Code 3 procedures and make any recommendations for improvement," said Missouri Enterprise Project Manager Tom Gantzert.