



**NEWS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

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**MSW, INC., SELECTS MISSOURI ENTERPRISE  
TO PROVIDE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Joplin, Missouri, November 7, 2006 – MSW, Inc., a nationally recognized manufacturer of restaurant furnishings with offices and a manufacturing plant near Joplin, has begun an extensive continuous improvement program, according to Curt McCoy, company president. The company has selected Missouri Enterprise to assist with the program.

MSW was founded by Ray McCoy in 1959 and has grown from one man in a garage to a company that today employs approximately 70 people. Their national accounts customer list includes Pizza Hut, Fuddruckers, Steak ‘n Shake, Cheddars, TGI Fridays and RestaurantFurnishings.com. Products include upholstered booths, food bars, counters, table tops and other related furnishing items.

The continuous improvement program includes staff training, hands-on implementation support and is intended to help the company incorporate industry “best practices”, state-of-the-art techniques to enhance productivity and reduce lead time, said McCoy.

“It aligns with our realization that continually satisfying the customers’ needs creates customers for life,” McCoy said.

The first phase of the program introduced employees to “Lean Enterprise” principles. This introduction demonstrated how “Lean Enterprise” tools reduce processing time and inventory, increase productivity and product quality and make better use of plant space by improving organization and material flow through the facility.

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Missouri Enterprise is now supporting the company's "Lean" team and management in developing current and future state Value Stream Maps.

Value Stream Mapping is a "Lean Enterprise" tool used that creates a graphical representation of all the actions, both value added and non-value added that are part of the company's operation. A future state map is a guide to the things that can be done to improve how the company operates.

Based on the Value Stream Maps created, Missouri Enterprise will help the company's "Lean" team and management examine and prioritize continuous improvement opportunities; and will help the company conduct a series of very intensive and highly focused continuous improvement efforts, called Kaizen Events, to eliminate non-value added activities.

Missouri Enterprise Vice President Dusty Cruise and Project Manager Glen Stuckmeyer are leading the Missouri Enterprise team assisting MSW, Inc.

Missouri Enterprise is a not-for-profit corporation that provides business and technical assistance to help Missouri companies succeed. It manages the Manufacturing Extension Partnership in Missouri, an Advanced Manufacturing Training Program (funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant) and one of the state's Innovation Centers.