



NEWS RELEASE
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TACONY CORPORATION LAUNCHES CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT ST. JAMES PLANT

Rolla, Missouri, November 15, 2005 – Tacony Corporation, with assistance from Missouri Enterprise, has launched a customized training program designed to enable employees at its St. James plant to use advanced “Lean Enterprise” tools and techniques in continuous improvement efforts.

“Lean Enterprise” is a systematic method of identifying activities that do not add value to a product and eliminating those activities across all of a company’s operations.

At its St. James plant, which employs approximately 85 people, Tacony Corporation manufactures Riccar, Simplicity, Powr-Flite and CFR brand vacuum cleaners. The company also makes a variety of other consumer and commercial products.

Tacony St. James Plant Manager Jim Fleming said the training is being specifically designed for the company and is intended to help the company eliminate waste, increase productivity and strengthen its position in the marketplace despite global competition. Some nine of Tacony employees are taking part in the first training session.

Root cause analysis, value stream mapping, probability distribution, design of experiments and data collection are examples of the tools and techniques included in the project.

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 Specialist Training

Program (funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant), a value added agriculture program, and one of the state's Innovation Centers.