



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

For More Information, Contact:
Harold Zinn, Senior Vice President
Corporate Communications
314-754-8452
hzinn@missourienterprise.org

**COHEN ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORKING SELECTS MISSOURI ENTERPRISE
TO PROVIDE CONTINUOUS MANUFACTURING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

St. James, Missouri, February 14, 2006 – Cohen Architectural Woodworking, assisted by Missouri Enterprise, has begun a continuous manufacturing process improvement program, according to Philip Cohen, company president.

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

Cohen manufactures very high quality custom cabinetry and millwork for high end residences, hotels, financial institutions and other commercial and residential applications. It has been in business since 1982 and employs some 11 people in its St. James plant.

The first phase of the program will introduce and train employees in “Lean Enterprise” principles. This introduction will demonstrate how “Lean Enterprise” tools reduce manufacturing time, increase productivity and product quality and make better use of space in the plant by improving organization and material flow through the facility.

Following the introductory training, Missouri Enterprise will assist the company’s “Lean” team and management in developing current and future state value stream maps.

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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 Cohen'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 Project Manager Dr. Robert Sickler will lead the Missouri Enterprise team assisting Cohen Architectural Woodworking.