



NEWS RELEASE
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**JASPER ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS SELECTS MISSOURI ENTERPRISE
FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Willow Springs, Missouri, March 30, 2005 – Jasper Engines & Transmissions has selected Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center to provide an introduction to Lean Enterprise principles and a Value Stream Mapping program at its Willow Springs plant, according to Mike Schwenk, company vice president of manufacturing.

The program, which includes both training of company employees in Lean Enterprise methods and assistance in implementing those methods, is part of the company's ongoing continuous improvement effort.

Lean Enterprise is a systematic process of identifying waste across the company's operations and eliminating those actions that do not add value to the company's products.

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 identifies logical steps in the continuous improvement process.

Schwenk said the company's continuous improvement efforts help it maintain its position in the highly competitive global marketplace.

Jasper Engines and Transmissions is an industry leader in remanufacturing engines and transmissions and distribute its products throughout the country, including through outlets in St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri. Jasper was founded in 1942 and recently expanded its manufacturing operations to Willow Springs. Jasper employs approximately 120 associates in Willow Springs.

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Missouri Enterprise Regional Vice President Dusty Cruise will supervise 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 Training Program (funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant) a value added agriculture program and one of the state's Innovation Centers.