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At Desloge Manufacturing Center

US Tool Group Finds Opportunities For Improvement

With assistance from Missouri Enterprise, US Tool Group has launched a continuous process improvement program at its Desloge manufacturing center, according to Company President Bruce Williams.

Williams said, "The program aligns with our company's ongoing commitment to understanding our customers' changing needs, delivering effective solutions and continuously supporting them with the right products and services."

The company was founded in 1958 by Paul Williams as US Tool Grinding and in the past 50 years has grown to be a leading integrated supplier of cutting tools.

US Tool provides a vertically integrated solution that consists of procurement of new cutting tools from prominent manufacturers and special cutting tools made by US Tool combined with extensive cutting tool reconditioning, modification, kitting and management capabilities.

In addition, US Tool process more than 500,000 cutting tools per week for customers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Its customers include major aircraft and aerospace companies as well as prominent manufacturers in a wide variety of other industry sectors.

The first step of the program was an introduction to Lean Enterprise principles for a team of key US Tool managers and employees. The intro-

duction, complete with a hands-on simulation, helped the company's continuous improvement team focus on state-of-the-art tools, techniques and best practices.

In the second step of the program, Missouri Enterprise helped the company create current and future state Value Stream Maps of specific parts of Desloge operations. A current state Value Stream Map is a graphical representation of all the value-added and

non-value-added activities in a company's operations. The future state map is a guide to improving the company's processes.

"During the Value Stream Mapping part of the project," Williams said, nearly two dozen opportunities for improvement were identified, and our team is now addressing those opportunities."

In the coming months, the company will create Value Stream Maps for

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Representatives of Five Companies Complete 12 Week Course



Twelve people representing five companies recently completed a 12 week course, Essentials of Effective First-Line Supervision. The companies represented were Georgia Pacific, Meremac Electrical Products and Ozark Mountain Technologies, Cuba; Brewer Science, Rolla; and Ace Manufacturing, Sullivan. The graduating class includes from left: Michael Moffit, Steven Caldwell, Clayton Taff, Kenneth Keeven, Robert Barrett (instructor), Stacy Knorr, Tina Cook, Brian Noltkamper, Donna McConnaughay, Curtis Knuckles, Marjorie Wagner, Mark Kelchner (instructor) and Mary Dean, President and CEO of Missouri Enterprise. Not pictured is Carl Juergens.

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other operational areas and work to eliminate waste and further improve processes, Williams said.

He continued, “My strategy is to introduce Lean Manufacturing principles to a large group of employees so these principles will be accepted and promoted by this team on the manufacturing floor and office. Missouri Enterprise has provided the training and agenda to make this happen.”

Tool Tech LLC Gains ISO Registration

Tool Tech, LLC, a Mexico, MO producer of machine parts for a variety of manufacturers, primarily in the automotive industry, has achieved ISO 9001:2000 registration, according to co-owners Pat Beauchamp and Mark Stephenson.

The 11-year old company employs nine people at its Mexico facility and does custom tool and die work for a variety of customers throughout the region.

ISO registration shows that the company has achieved standards of quality that are recognized and

Participants In Lean Accounting Workshop Learn To Use Lean Financial Reporting Tools



Nick Katko (back to camera), senior associate, Brian Maskell Associates, discusses how lean accounting correctly aligns financial reporting/decision making and lean manufacturing plant operations with (from right) Kirkwood Stair CEO Brian Berger, Plant Manager John Sappington and IT Manager Robert Wadkins. Kirkwood Stair, Pacific, was one of three companies to participate in last month's 2-day Lean Accounting workshop.

respected throughout the world.

To earn ISO registration, the company had to meet comprehensive quality management system requirements and pass a rigorous audit by an independent, third part registrar.

During the registration process, Missouri Enterprise provided Tool Tech, LLC with training, documentation preparation and implementation assistance, auditing and on-site support.

Partial Listing of New Projects

Company	Location	Project Type
Foundation Workshop	Grandview	Manufacturing Process Improvement
deVan Sealants	St. Louis	Quality Management Systems
BD Accu-Glass	Olivette	Growth Strategies
Metal Recovery Systems	St. Louis	Manufacturing Process Improvement
American Tool & Plastic Company	Poplar Bluff	ISO Internal Auditor Training
Triad Manufacturing Company	St. Louis	Lean, Clean and Green