

## Pretium Packaging Selects Missouri Enterprise To Provide Continuous Improvement Program



Participating in the "Lean Six Sigma" Executive Overview were (from left) **Dave Winslett**, president; **Taylor Harbison**, intern; **Bob Gillig**, Herman, MO plant manager; **Tom Marchetto**, Hazelton, PA plant manager; **Lois Lester**, manager, corporate quality; **Keith Harbison**, chairman and chief executive officer; **Dave Goebel** and **John Walter**, Missouri Enterprise; **Tim Wehrfritz**, vice president/chief administrative officer; **Mitch Mankosa**, vice president/chief operating officer; **Bob Robison**, vice president/chief financial officer. Attending, but not shown, was **Joe Kelley**, director, quality assurance/purchasing

Pretium Packaging, a nationally recognized manufacturer of plastic containers and closure devices, has begun an extensive continuous improvement program at several plants including its St. Charles, Missouri plant, according to Keith Harbison, Pretium's chief executive officer. The company has selected Missouri Enterprise to assist with the program.

Pretium Packaging was founded in 1992 with one plant and has grown by acquisition and internal expansion to ten plants serving customers in the healthcare/pharmaceutical, personal care, automotive/household/industrial,

agricultural and food and beverage sectors. The company does injection molding, injection blow molding, injection stretch blow molding and extrusion blow molding to produce a broad range of containers.

Pretium Packaging has nine plants that are ISO certified and one nearing completion. The company has received supplier awards from Monsanto, Vi-Jon Laboratories, Neutrogena and GlaxoSmithKline.

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 Harbison.

"It aligns with our belief that our employees are our biggest asset and with our intentions to leverage that asset to continue to meet customer needs and expectations," Harbison added. "It is essential to Pretium's success that we improve our focus on our customer needs and expectations as we embark on this journey. A recent company initiative with GlaxoSmithKline, one of our key customers, has pointed out the value of this approach," he said.

The first phase, a "Lean Six Sigma" Executive Overview, introduced the company's corporate leadership to "Lean Enterprise and Six Sigma" principles. This will be followed by an "Introduction to Lean Enterprise," including a manufacturing simulation to demonstrate 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.

Missouri Enterprise will soon begin supporting the company's "Lean Six Sigma" team and management in developing current and future state Value Stream Maps, tools that

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At Edmonds Dental Prosthetics

### **Process Improvement Projects Generate Substantial Results**

A series of "Lean Enterprise" projects, recently completed by Edmonds Dental Prosthetics, Inc., of Springfield with assistance from Missouri Enterprise, has yielded excellent results, according to Company Technical Supervisor Steve Edmonds.

"This includes more than \$160,000 in increase sales, \$75,000 in cost savings, \$40,000 in capital investment and 3 new full time jobs created," Edmonds said.

The program included both staff training and hands-on implementation support and enabled the company to incorporate industry "best practices" and state-of-the-art techniques to enhance productivity and reduce lead time, said Edmonds.

Edmonds Dental Prosthetics was founded more than 30 years ago and is the largest dental laboratory in southwest Missouri. The company, with branches in West Plains and Jefferson City, currently employs more than 100 people in a high-tech work environment and provides service to dentists and orthodontists in Arkansas and Oklahoma as well as Missouri. The company produces crowns, bridges, dentures, implants and orthodontic devices in its state-of-the-art facility.

The first phase of the program introduced employees to "Lean Enterprise" principles. This introduction demonstrated

how "Lean Enterprise" tools reduce processing time, increase productivity and product quality and make better use of laboratory space by improving organization and material flow through the facility.

Missouri Enterprise then supported 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 helped the laboratory's "Lean" team and management examine and prioritize continuous improvement opportunities and conduct a series of very intensive and highly focused continuous improvement efforts, called Kaizen Events. It is during these events that previously identified non-value added activities were reduced and the processes to increase productivity and reduce costs were implemented.

Missouri Enterprise Project Managers Steve Andriano and Mark Kelchner led the Missouri Enterprise team assisting Edmonds Dental Prosthetics, Inc.

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### **Pretium Packaging Begins Project**

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are used to create 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 voice of the customer.

Based on the Value Stream Maps created, Missouri Enterprise will help the company's "Lean Six Sigma" 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. It is anticipated that 5S Visual Workplace Organization, Set Up Reduction, Total Preventive Maintenance and Cellular Flow Manufacturing are among the "Lean Enterprise" tools and techniques that will be used in the company's Kaizen Events.

Project Manager Dave Goebel is leading the Missouri Enterprise team assisting Pretium Packaging.