

# TAP SUCCESS STORIES



**RICK SERENO**  
PRESIDENT  
OJI INTERTECH

"Oji Intertech has benefited from the Purdue partnership by improving our processes through the Lean disciplines and targeting the more difficult waste and variation through the Six Sigma program. We implemented the Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) tracking and visual display boards throughout the plant to give real-time information back to the operators. It has also provided management with real-time reports to address issues during the daily review meetings."

**PURDUE**  
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Manufacturing  
Extension Partnership

## MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP OJI INTERTECH INC., NORTH MANCHESTER, IND.



### TRAINING PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS 20% PRODUCTIVITY BOOST AT OJI INTERTECH

**"IT'S ONE THING TO TALK ABOUT IT, BUT WE ARE SEEING REAL RESULTS FROM THIS PARTNERSHIP WITH PURDUE TAP."**

**WENDELL ALDRICH**  
GENERAL MANAGER  
OJI INTERTECH



# PURDUE BRINGS LEAN TRAINING TO OJI INTERTECH, PRODUCING \$560,000 IN COST SAVINGS

For more than 25 years, Northern Indiana manufacturer Oji Intertech Inc. has supported the automotive, transportation and industrial packaging industries with its compression molding, diecutting, assembly and extrusion coating product line.

Ninety-seven Oji Intertech employees produce everything from headliners, structure seat supports and diecut assemblies to steel and paper industry wraps and fiber drum and consumer packaging lamination.

Oji Intertech competes on a global front, where manufacturers that sit still are quickly passed by their competitors. To maintain that competitive edge, Oji Intertech partnered with Purdue TAP to train its entire workforce in Lean Six Sigma manufacturing principles.

To support the effort, Oji Intertech developed a core group of 20 employees by including Six Sigma Green Belt training and projects.

With a focus on process improvement, employees were certified in the areas of Green Belt, Black Belt and Champion. Since then, several Green Belts have gone on to complete Six Sigma Black Belt training and are showing great promise with their certification projects.

Results of the Purdue partnership have been significant and immediate, producing a total of \$560,000 in cost savings for Oji Intertech's molding, extrusion coating and warehouse units:

- \$400,000 reduction in inventory costs during the first two months of implementing a process known as value stream mapping. By implementing improved management controls and buying procedures, Oji Intertech now

has a quicker response time to customer orders and higher customer satisfaction due to changes at its offsite warehouse for the extrusion-coating product line.

- \$120,000 in savings after addressing variances in its polycoated chip board, the material used by its extrusion division to manufacture molding products. Deploying Six Sigma tools, Oji Intertech pinpointed what was causing the variances and implemented controls to provide stable results on a daily basis.
- \$40,000 in savings from improved productivity after implementing tracking and visual display monitors, in what's called an Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) system, throughout the plant. These provide real-time production data for operators and daily reports for managers and supervisors, allowing them to respond quickly to bottlenecks, equipment problems and other issues on the production line.

"It's one thing to talk about it, but we are seeing real results from this partnership with Purdue TAP. Productivity has risen more than 20%, and we have seen significant cost savings in our molding, extrusion coating and warehouse units," says Oji Intertech general manager Wendell Aldrich.

In addition, Aldrich says, the Purdue TAP staff was professional and provided the technical leadership necessary for Oji Intertech to implement Lean and Six Sigma programs and maintain an edge over the competitors.

"Oji Intertech historically has promoted a culture that encouraged our employees to better themselves, and all 97 Oji Intertech employees benefited from this collaboration with Purdue," Aldrich says.



## ABOUT MEP

Purdue MEP provides high-value solutions that help Indiana businesses maximize their success by increasing profits, reducing costs, and implementing growth systems. Our organization serves more than 500 companies annually by implementing continuous improvement principles in the areas of productivity, growth, and technology. Purdue MEP has helped our clients collectively achieve over \$2 billion in economic impact in Indiana since 2005.

## CONTACT US:

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