

LAFAYETTE INSTRUMENT

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

Lean Implementation Unlocks Cost Savings, Production Efficiencies for Scientific Instrument Manufacturer

“ Having Purdue MEP come onsite for training has been a huge benefit to Lafayette Instrument, exceeding our expectations. Their instructors bring real-world manufacturing experience, making Lean principles more relatable and impactful.

The training sparked honest conversations, great questions, and a deeper understanding of our goals. Everyone who has come in has truly wanted to help us succeed and do better, and that’s the same culture we try to drive at Lafayette Instrument. ”

Levi Hunt
Operations Manager
Lafayette Instrument

The Challenge:

Lafayette Instrument wanted to expose the members of its team to different types of Lean manufacturing and process improvement best practices. The goal was to equip the team with the knowledge and tools needed to maximize Lean techniques throughout the production facility.

The Solution:

Having worked with Purdue MEP numerous times, Lafayette Instrument reached out to the MEP team regarding Lean training. A series of six Lean trainings were scheduled covering topics such as Lean principles, 5S, inventory management utilizing Pull-Kanban, and more. Purdue MEP was also able to connect Lafayette Instrument with grant funding to cover 75% of the training costs.

The Results:

Purdue MEP provided over 50 hours of training for 25 employees at Lafayette Instrument, leading to the implementation of Lean practices. A new inventory pull system has tremendously impacted and leveled out their production schedule and overall created efficiencies on the shop floor.

Lafayette Instrument has significantly improved production efficiency by implementing a Kanban system for inventory replenishment and optimizing component and part processes. These improvements, along with key equipment upgrades, have resulted in approximately \$300,000 in labor and material cost savings over the past year.

They have also decreased lead times dramatically. In one specific product, lead times have shrunk from an eight-week lead time to being able to ship the next day. On-time delivery has increased from an average of 85% to 97%, as well.



Impacts:

- **Saved \$300,000** in past year due to production efficiencies and equipment upgrades
- In one product line, **lead times have reduced from eight weeks to one day**
- **On-time delivery increase from average of 85% to 97%**
- Completed over **50 hours of training for 25 employees**
- **Deferred 75% of training costs** due to grant funding

ABOUT MEP

Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) provides high-value solutions to help Indiana businesses maximize their success. As advocates for Indiana’s thousands of manufacturers, our staff identifies areas of improvement, streamlines processes, and ultimately increases competitiveness. Purdue MEP serves hundreds of companies annually by implementing continuous improvement principles in the areas of productivity, growth, and technology.



Read more at: <https://mep.purdue.edu/client-successes/lafayette-instrument/>