

FLEXAUST

WARSAW, INDIANA

Purdue MEP Training Leads to Production Increase and Capacity Expansion

“ It has been so satisfying to see our team become involved and engaged in the process of learning Advanced Manufacturing. They are utilizing the tools we’ve learned with Purdue MEP and are finding ways to increase efficient production practices throughout the company and in many areas to implement change. These trainings will have a lasting impact on our operations and the mindset of our team. I will continue to challenge our team to make process improvement adjustments as they discover ways to improve. ”

Leigh Elliott
Operations Manager
Flexaust

The Challenge:

Flexaust was looking to increase the usage of Advanced Manufacturing tools and techniques within their production departments to increase operational efficiency. Most of their products are unique to customer specifications, so a lot of focus is on the end product and not being as cognizant of how to eliminate waste during production. They wanted to see that change from a culture not focused on rooting out waste to one that saw opportunities to eliminate waste throughout the value stream.

The Solution:

Flexaust worked with Purdue MEP to develop a custom training plan focused on Advanced Manufacturing tools and techniques. Purdue MEP conducted courses including Value Stream Mapping, Problem Solving, 5S, Set-Up Reduction & Quick Changeover, and Total Productive Maintenance. In addition to the training, extra time was allocated for onsite assistance with implementation.

The Results:

Over eight months, Purdue MEP trained 22 employees in over 120 hours of waste reduction management training and implementation techniques and tools.

In all four main production areas, team members implemented the workplace organization method, 5S, to improve work efficiency.

Due to the incorporation of 5S techniques on their mandrel line, production has doubled from 100 feet per shift to 200 feet per shift. With the team proving they can accommodate an increased capacity, corporate leaders have committed \$120,000 in capital expenditures on new machining which will open avenues to pursue an additional line of business, therefore expanding capacity and production.

Impacts:

- **Doubled production** - Mandrel line production went from 100 ft/shift to 200 ft
- **Cost savings of \$22,500** - Due to grant funding acquired for training
- **Capital commitment of \$120,000** - With proven ability to accommodate increased capacity, an investment is being made in new equipment which will also **open an additional line of business**
- **25% reduction in length of set-up times** from 2 hours to 1.5 hours

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: [www.mep.purdue.edu/
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