

News Release

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THOUSANDS SAVED AS STADIUM EMBRACES LEAN ETHOS

A NORTH East electronics firm is set to save thousands thanks to assistance from a crack team of lean manufacturing experts from One North East.

Stadium Electronics in Hartlepool, Tees Valley, has adopted Japanese-designed streamlined manufacturing techniques, which could save the company almost £30k a year in preparation costs alone.

Engineers from MAS-NEPA helped reduce set-up preparation time on the plant's production line by 73% - which management at Stadium estimate equates to an incredible five weeks per year additional capacity at the plant.

Julie Carter, Stadium Electronics Continuous Improvement Manager, said: "Our goal is to achieve manufacturing excellence whilst building a culture of continuous improvement within the business. The programme so far has been hugely successful with further benefits to be gained in identifying additional areas for attention and the close monitoring of the recommendations to ensure the improvements are locked in and become part of common practice at Stadium.

"The work we have undertaken with NEPA is proving to be invaluable and we look forward to working more closely with them to achieve even greater improvements into 2009."

Most of the savings have been made by identifying and eliminating wasteful activity, improving set-up time, minimising downtime and creating standard working practices that all employees can follow. It is the second successful project MAS-NEPA engineers have conducted at the plant, having helped reduce the handling, storage and kitting of material by up to 37% in a similar project earlier in 2008.

The MAS-NEPA team of engineers Mark Wood and George Wright was led by Barry Rogerson, who said: "The aim of the project was to train the Stadium team in the lean tools and techniques and guide them through their first project. The activity was a huge success resulting in a substantial time saving in material handling and preparation. By eliminating wasteful and unnecessary processes we were able to identify and eliminate a host of time-consuming activities and streamline the material preparation process.

"From the factory floor, to the directors, employees at Stadium have embraced lean manufacturing tools and techniques. The enthusiasm and commitment is starting to bear fruit and we will continue to work with Stadium to ensure the business continues to operate at maximum capacity."

Stadium Electronics provides electronic manufacturing services (EMS) to original equipment manufacturers in the consumer, industrial, medical and personal care and automotive markets, from electronic PCB assembly to full product build and packaging solutions.

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