

Introducing Lean and 1-piece flow into electronic relay assembly

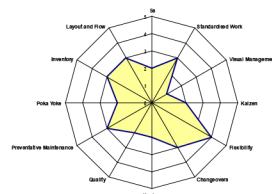
Background

Takt has been working with the Automation Division of Areva T&D for several years providing training, coaching and project support. The company manufacture a range of electrical protection relays and had been challenged to reduce production lead-time by introducing Lean into one of the existing production cells.



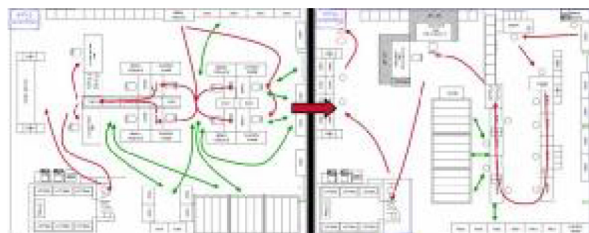
Approach

We initially undertook a Lean diagnostic to understand demand complexity and identify potential areas for improvement. This was followed by Lean awareness training for all line operators to remove any anxiety that the proposed plan may cause and actively seek front-line involvement in solution development.



A cross functional team was then set-up and following the Six Sigma DMAIC framework systematically analysed the detail of the process to identify the changes to be made. These included classic Lean approaches such as takt time, line balancing and layout, load leveling, work station re-design & kanban component replenishment.

We supported the project team throughout the implementation phase providing experience, technical advice and an independent focal point for concerns and comments.



Results

62% reduction in production lead-time.
23% increase in productivity.
80% decrease in line-side storage.

Comments

"If the cell could be improved we would have already done it!"
An early view on introducing Lean

"Your project is great, it's a superb achievement!" Vice President for Strategy Europe.