



Creating a Manufacturing Cell Leads to Great Savings

Customer:
Humanetics

County:
Hidalgo

Industry:
Sheet Metal
Fabrication

NAICS:
33232

TMAC Services
Lean Enterprise

Who to contact:
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Humanetics is a world recognized manufacturer for an extremely diverse group of industries including: cellular, telecom, satellite, communications, banking, printing, power supply, postal automation, airport automation, semi-conductor, ATM, defense, aerospace, computer, medical, and many others.

Humanetics South Texas facility was opened in November of 2003 in the city of McAllen, TX. This 100,000 sq. ft. facility has the capability to service all the metal fabrication needs of companies in this area. In addition, the ST facility can handle all of their customers' precision welding requirements. They have the ability to do mig, tig, and resistance welding with a wide array of materials.

The Situation

Some metal fabrication processes at Humanetics were taking too long. "We knew there had to be a better way," says Joe Haynes, Humanetics General Manager. They were working in departments or batches of 100 pcs. They would move a batch from one department to another. They had a lot of inventory and lead time for one of their core processes was 5 days.

The Solution

TMAC provided Lean Enterprise training for 12 Humanetics shop supervisors and managers, including Joe Haynes. "A lot of us grew up in the industry, but it was time to go back to school". Humanetics staff learned how to use Value Stream Mapping, 5s, and Cell/Flow through simulations and on-site observations and changes. They applied these and other Lean tools to different production areas.

The Solution (continued)

Lean Enterprise was well received, Haynes said. Humanetics staff took the risk of changing the way they used to work; they implemented changes and were successful. Processes at Humanetics now involve working in a cell, departments were eliminated. In a team effort, managers and supervisors along with TMAC staff planned the cell layout, assigned resources, made the appropriate changes, ran a pilot, trained operators, and started working in a better and more efficient way.

The Results

- Reduced lead time from 5 days to 1 day;
- Productivity increased an average of 23%;
- Reduced travel distance by 1097 feet;
- Reduced WIP, approximately 833 units/month;
- Reduced defects by 75%.

"We have increased our productivity on an average of 23% using Lean principles."

Joe Haynes
General Manager
Humanetics

success
story