

Case Study

Photofabrication Ltd

semta

The Sector Skills Council
for Science, Engineering and
Manufacturing Technologies



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Neil Shorten
Commercial Director

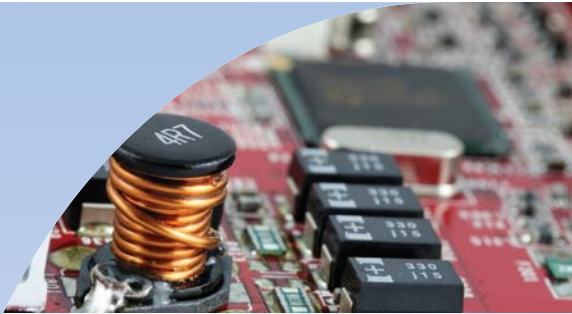
Manufacturing SME reaps benefits of Lean training

Photofabrication Limited has reduced waste, cut costs and enabled people to work more effectively together through a ‘Lean’ training programme recommended by Semta.

The company, a manufacturing SME in Cambridgeshire, wanted to implement Lean practices in order to cut non-value adding activities and develop competitive advantages. Employees have completed several projects, each resulting in improvements in different areas. The company is particularly proud of the £10,000 annual cost saving it has achieved by improving the sales order process.

Before the training, people were working independently and not as a team, which caused frustration amongst the workforce. Time was also

being wasted through bad stock organisation, duplication of activities and overlap of responsibilities. Semta worked with the company to identify these problems and implement relevant training to enable employees to make their own improvements. Stock rooms were relocated to minimise health and safety risks and cut the time spent walking to and from the room. Other projects included rearranging the layout of the car park, reducing the amount of paper used in the company and simplifying KPIs so employees could understand the aims of the company.



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Commercial Director, Neil Shorten, says: "Since the training, employees feel more empowered in the work they do, they understand the frustrations of colleagues and are now working together to improve them. Although we've made the company leaner and can see the cost savings, the real benefit has to be seeing employees take ownership of tasks and pride in improving the business for all."

Seeing people working together as a team has been a great achievement for the business. The tools learned have enabled employees to evaluate and select projects and they are able to appreciate the skills each person brings to the table. Neil concludes: "Looking forward, this small change alone in how people work will encourage more improvement projects to be identified and developed."