

NEWS RELEASE



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XCEL Power Systems in Lean Manufacturing initiative

XCEL Power has completed a reorganisation of their production facility at Ashford, Kent. The Company embarked upon a programme of change in April this year, piloting a Lean Manufacturing initiative in Goods Inwards and Stores. A team of six employees carried through the changes, during a Rapid Improvement Week in July, following training for in-house facilitators in a locally sponsored programme. The success of this first initiative was such that the "Lean" process is now being flowed across other areas of the business.

In Goods Inwards / Stores, the changes in layout and stocking locations has dramatically improved efficiency and reduced time taken for some tasks by up to 50%. In addition, the Company has just completed a substantial facilities re-organisation. This has included the creation of a number of dedicated process areas, to allow XCEL to compete in the higher volume industrial market place. The re-organisation has increased the electronic manufacturing floor space by approximately 100%, allowing XCEL to take in significant additional work within the existing Ashford facility.

Richard Weller, XCEL's General Manager said, "The Lean Manufacturing programme is aimed at removing waste, in terms of time, materials and space, and at minimising activities which do not directly add value to the product or process. Although the reorganisation of the factory layout has been completed, we will now be applying our newly gained experience of "Lean" techniques to individual processes and specific functional areas. This is not just a single change, but a process of continuous improvement. The benefits to us as a manufacturing organisation, and to our customers, are to be found in reduced lead times, increased throughput and lower unit costs."

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