



Changeover Reduction Activity Keeps AccuRounds Moving Forward on Lean Journey

A GBMP Client Case Study

AccuRounds, founded in 1976, is a contract manufacturer that machines and assembles precision turned components. With more than 35 years of experience serving multiple industries including medical/dental, aerospace, defense, semiconductor and emerging technology markets, AccuRounds is a trusted supplier of high quality products at a competitive price. AccuRounds was at the forefront of the manufacturing industry in 1995 when it embarked on a quest to become a World Class manufacturing operation. In 2006, AccuRounds won The Shingo Prize Northeast Silver Medallion, the first contract metalworking company in North America to do so.

Understanding that committed companies remain on the lean journey forever, AccuRounds recently worked with Bob Elliott, GBMP Continuous Improvement Manager, on changeover reduction activities with a team of employees from the second shift, on a Star Swiss screw machine. Bob trained the team on the basic methods of changeover reduction, then the group observed and filmed a set-up on the AccuRounds machining center. They reviewed the film and began to talk about everything from the organization of material and information to the timing and order of changeover steps. Prior to the second day with Bob, the group had done some homework and estimated they could achieve a 12% improvement in set-up time on the pilot machine from the opportunities they had identified. Before going to the floor to try out the new methods, Bob and the team discussed some additional ideas for improvement and agreed to test them out that evening. At the end of the second night the team had achieved a 33% improvement, going from 181 minutes to 120 minutes to complete the changeover. Upon further discussion, the team identified another 45 minutes of changeover time that could be removed from the process!

“So if we do the math on this activity, and I am being conservative, this team was able to recover somewhere in the range of 300 hours per year on this one machine,” noted the team’s coach, Bob Elliott. *“The opportunities are much greater than this; this is only one of the dozens of pieces of equipment that AccuRounds has. The key is to take what was learned and continuously apply this to all pieces of equipment. If they can do this on 10 pieces of equipment and see similar results there they could save 3000 hours per year.”*

“I think that is pretty impressive for a couple of days work,” said AccuRounds VP of Operations, Patrick O’Connell. *“Our improvement journey has allowed us to grow revenues and gain efficiencies. Much of our success has been derived from changes such as these where our employees took initiative. I am looking forward to seeing how we can use what we have learned from the changeover reduction activities to make similar gains on our other machines. Beyond that, I am certain the second shift team will keep looking for additional ways to shave time off their changeovers. Bob provided the team with a simple way to ‘see’ opportunity through the filming process, and a robust methodology to achieve the targeted improvement effort that we need to maintain our strong market position.”*

For more information about AccuRounds please visit www.accurounds.com

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