



## 17 Days Training and Over \$4 Million in Savings

OmniGuide, a Massachusetts manufacturer of fiber optic laser products, began their continuous improvement journey in 2007 by introducing all employees to the seven wastes and several lean countermeasures that help organizations identify and reduce/eliminate waste in their work processes. Employees received 5S (workplace organization) training, Value Stream Mapping training, and training in Problem Solving techniques.

With the support of management, the employees at OmniGuide used their newly acquired skills to begin examining many of their work processes. As improvement teams began directly observing the processes required to make OmniGuide laser products, it became apparent that a statistical approach to solving problems was necessary. At that point 16 employees from several different disciplines began Six Sigma Green Belt training with the Greater Boston Manufacturing Partnership, a nonprofit organization located at U. Mass, Boston. OmniGuide received a grant from the Massachusetts work force training fund to pay for the training. The company's match for the grant funds was the time their employees spent in training.

Employee Chia-Chun Chung has taken on the role of Manager of the continuous improvement process at OmniGuide and keeps everyone energized through frequent meetings and implementation of a reward and recognition system. The company has developed and summarized return on investment data on several different improvement projects that employees have undertaken since being trained in improvement methods. Savings obtained range from reductions in inventory dollars to improved worker productivity to decreases in fiber sterilization costs.

The company has accumulated savings of over \$4 million dollars and a return on their investment (ROI) exceeding 4000% from the 17 days of training conducted.

For more information about OmniGuide please visit [www.omni-guide.com/](http://www.omni-guide.com/)  
For more information about GBMP please visit [www.gbmp.org](http://www.gbmp.org).