Implementing ‘lean thinking’ with Oxton Engineering

Project:
Oxton Engineering specialises in providing precision engineered components and clean assembly to clients throughout the UK and Ireland. They have an on-going relationship with The Agility & Supply Chain Management Centre based in The University of Liverpool Management School. Their most recent collaboration was a shorter six month KTP, funded by the university, aimed at improving quality procedures and applying a ‘lean’ approach to their business.

A postgraduate student was placed in Oxton and it was their task to help implement the changes with support from The Agility Centre staff, who guided and mentored the Associate throughout the process. New work procedures such as the 5S technique were implemented alongside, a new production planning and control system, and the setting up of a new bonded store. A rebranding strategy was also undertaken, involving the development of a new logo and marketing materials as well as a new website.

Impact:
- Implementation of a production planning system which improved shop floor visibility and made the monitoring of the shop floor more efficient.
- Complete upgrade of the quality management system to a process based system leading to significant improvements in quality.
- Implementation of new working procedures for ‘class 10,000’ clean room facility and bonded stores.
- The completion of a rebranding exercise including the re-design of the company logo and a new look web design (www.oxton-engineering.co.uk)

“Working with the agility team has been good for us. We are always keen to listen to new ideas and we enjoy the buzz of making things work more effectively. When it comes to marketing we still have a lot to learn but we are getting there. We feel really inspired to do great things and are raring to go.”

Phil McWilliam
Managing Director
Oxton Engineering