

More
effective
skills development

Business improvement training breaks the mould at RGE

Training in Business Improvement Techniques delivered by Pera enabled plastic component manufacturer RGE Group to achieve NVQ level 2 accreditation for 49 employees. By tailoring the training to their precise needs, RGE were able to realise efficiencies that will be worth almost half a million pounds annually.

Based in Godmanchester near Cambridge, RGE has been designing, engineering and manufacturing injection moulding tools for over 40 years. While it has a strong position in the white goods market, with clients including Indesit and PHS, constant price pressures mean the company is continually seeking ways to become more productive.

Aware of the relevance and benefits of lean manufacturing, RGE approached Pera to help introduce lean principles into the business. A key factor was the unique project-based approach taken by Pera, which meant RGE would realise tangible results immediately.

The training comprised a two-day introduction to lean manufacturing to underpin knowledge, followed by a tailored five-day course. These brought together people from all areas of the business to address actual productivity issues faced by RGE.

These intensive, in-company projects also provide NVQ level 2 accreditation, meaning RGE's training could be part-funded by the Government's Learning and Skills Council 'Train to Gain' programme. One of the first issues delegates chose to focus on was production performance. After analysing data from the shop floor, they identified key areas for improvement.

Overall the five projects resulted in a raft of efficiencies, with reduced scrap levels and significantly shorter changeover times between jobs having a particularly significant impact on company performance. It is estimated that these operating improvements will allow RGE to generate £490,000 in additional revenue each year.

RGE expects the training's effect to bring long term benefits. Production Manager Jim Clayton says, "This was quality training: delegates saw its value, they saw how critical change is to the business and how to spot opportunities for ongoing improvements." He also saw the breaking down of barriers through cross-functional training teams, and the way delegates have been empowered to see their role in the future of the business, as key outcomes.

Contact:
Marcus Pearson
kmarcus.pearson@pera.com

Business Skills and Improvement is part of the Pera Innovation Network

The training was absolutely first rate: our people not only believe in the tools and techniques they learned but also that they can play an important role in improving how we do things – and that's just the response I wanted.

Jim Clayton
Production Manager,
RGE

