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- Improving Production Efficiency
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Newsletter 03/2010

Value Stream Mapping

You're ready to become more efficient. So what's the first step? At InGenics, we start most of our projects with value stream mapping. But what does that mean, and why is it so important?

Value stream mapping is a lean management technique that offers a 10,000 foot-view of how value is created across your organization. Initially created for production processes, it's used today to improve administrative and other processes as well. A value stream map can be created very simply all you need is paper and a pencil to get started, because it's faster and more effective to do it by hand. An initial assessment usually takes no more than a day or two. Yet it's an essential first step if you want to be successful with any project, whether it's consolidating factories, integrating new products, or improving existing processes.

The goal of conducting a value stream analysis is to create a map of your entire operation, looking at the flow of both materials and information from the supplier all the way to the customer. With a clear overview of all departments and production areas involved, you can quickly identify and group common activities, and effectively compare process time to lead time. As a result, you'll be able to more easily determine what is of value and what is wasteful, and what can be streamlined in the future.

When creating a value stream map, it's important to start not at the beginning, but at the end of your overall production process. Know what you're working towards, then move backwards to make sure you can get there in the best way possible. Evaluate everything from the end back, looking at all relevant processes including stock and work in progress across all stations.



AWARD:

Top Consultant / Management consultant

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Document every aspect of your material and information flow, and question it at every stage. Look at lead time using four key parameters:

- Process Time – the actual time it takes to complete a process or activity without interruption
- Queue Time – the time spent on holding, waiting, and transportation
- Query Time – length of time required to request additional information, including wait time
- Rework Time – the time needed to rework a specific process or activity

Once you have identified the issues you need to resolve, it will be time to dig deeper and determine exactly how you will address them. Your goals should be to reduce lead time, minimize inventory, streamline queries, and of course eliminate failures – in other words, create value without waste. Don't forget to look beyond the activities in the value stream analysis – use a "green field" approach to include new views and activities as well.

Contact Ingenics today to find out how value stream mapping can be implemented as part of your next lean project: ContactICA@ingenics.com



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