



Lubricant manufacturer sharpens competitive edge

Australasian Lubricants Manufacturing Company (ALMC) is reporting productivity gains after training its employees in competitive manufacturing.

ALMC National Quality Manager, Joanne McDonald implemented the program after participating in a lean manufacturing implementation project while working in Malaysia.

“It is a cost effective training initiative,” Ms McDonald said.

Delivered by SkillsTech Partners, Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing was delivered in the ALMC’s Brisbane plant by skilled ‘lean consultants’.

Consultant Glenn Seaby mentored participants through projects designed to make sustained business improvements.

“The program involved people at different levels of the organisation and really helped build the team,” Ms McDonald said.

“It was an opportunity to bring people out of their comfort zone and see outside of their day to day activity. Importantly, it has been a mechanism for positive change and an enabler for continuous improvement.”

“The participants learned skills that enable ALMC to continuously improve its processes. This leads to cost effectiveness, which leads to long term sustainability for shareholders and employees.”

The course was run over a year, with half day participation required each week. Training covered:

- problem solving;
- mistake proofing;
- redesigning workshop layout;
- continuous improvement meetings;
- project scheduling;
- Waste reduction

Promising results were achieved including:

- reduced flushings on the 20L filling line;
- reduced set-up time on the 20L filling line;
- increased First Time Pass Rate in production;
- reduced additive cost in the grease plant; and
- participants gained valuable skills in problem solving, error proofing and cost reduction for use in future improvement projects.



Participants played an active role improving production processes

“This course compliments the ALMC’s strategic decision to embark on Competitive Manufacturing training across our sites,” Ms McDonald said.

Participant feedback praised the mix of structured and practical learning and the value of seeing the principles applied to day to day tasks.

SkillsTech Partners Corporate Sales Manager Mark Baker said competitive manufacturing, also known as ‘lean manufacturing’ was well established internationally.

“In the current economic climate, competitive manufacturing is a critical tool for Australian manufacturers to sharpen their competitive edge in domestic and international markets,” Mr. Baker said.

ALMC formed in 2000 as a joint venture of Caltex and BP Lubricants and is now the largest manufacturer of lubricants in Australia. The company has three plants in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia and a warehousing facility in New South Wales.



ALMC competitive manufacturing graduates with trainer Glenn Seaby (white shirt: middle front row) and SkillsTech Partners consultant Mark Baker (middle row right)