Success Story

Increased Efficiency – Idea Cards

Outdoor Venture Corporation

Testimonial:

"Working with AKA helped empower our employees to be more vigilant in looking for improvement opportunities; but more importantly, it gave them the confidence to speak up where they would not have in the past. This simple change made such an immediate impact that we are still scratching our heads wondering why no one saw the potential for this change over the past 10 years of running this line."

Darren Kidd, Warehouse Manager
Outdoor Venture Corporation

Company Profile:

Outdoor Venture Corporation is a prime supplier and subcontractor of military tent systems, components and accessories for the United States Department of Defense. Founded in 1972, the company has delivered more than $260 million dollars worth of military tents on over 140 government contracts since 1984. It is based in Stearns, Kentucky and has four manufacturing facilities and 230 employees.

Situation:

Outdoor Venture Corporation needed to increase efficiency on one of its production lines. This particular line had two K-bars (radio frequency welding units) of two different bar sizes, and each machine was divided by tables. Operators had to roll and fold the unit back and forth between K-bars to complete all the processes involved at this point on the production floor, and the extra steps meant they had to work overtime each week to keep up with customer demand. To find a more sustainable solution, Outdoor Venture Corporation reached out to Advantage Kentucky Alliance (AKA), a NIST MEP affiliate.

Solution:

Consultants from AKA worked with the operators on the production line to identify a solution to the process. The operators used an "Idea Card" on the machines to figure out the best way to relocated the K-bars. This led to a decision to join the two tables together, putting the K-bars on opposite ends. The 180-degree table turn brought immediate and dramatic results, eliminating three roll-and-folds in the process. Now Outdoor Venture Corporation can produce three-to-five additional units daily without requiring operators to work overtime. The simple process change only took 45 minutes of work and increased daily productivity by 50 percent.

Direct Results:

- **Increased productivity by 50%.**
- **Eliminated overtime.**

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ADVANTAGE KENTUCKY ALLIANCE

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