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Center for Industrial Research and Service
Where you find solutions

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Where you find solutions

Potential Plant Layout Project Evaluation

Do I really need to go to the time and expense needed to change the way this plant or department is currently laid out within the building?
Potential Plant Layout Project Evaluation

- Our experience has shown that in most cases the answer is in fact “No”, if the goal of the company is to make more money.
- A majority of companies can make a huge mistake because controlling the facilities or layout is a much easier prospect than trying to control the process used. (man, machine, method, material, and measurement)
If the goal of a company is to make more money then they realize that:

• The ability to increase the rate of product flow (throughput) has a much bigger impact on bottom line profits than the ability to cut costs (operating expenses).

• Like time, work tends to fill the space available.
What should I do?

“The significant problems we face today can not be resolved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”

Einstein
Let’s get a new level of thinking!

Why do you think a new layout is needed?

– New/increasing business?
– The need for more machines, more people, or more storage?
– The process currently used is inefficient or costly?
Let’s get a new level of thinking!

• Based on the way you are currently operating do you suspect you might have under-utilized capacity to handle new/increasing business?

• If this capacity was utilized would it effect the number of machines, people, and space you need?

• Would the costs that you hope to save really contribute to increasing bottom line profits?
The answers rely on a deep understanding of the “process”.

- You may not understand your process if;
  - You have late orders,
  - You work too much overtime,
  - You can’t accurately predict lead times,
  - You have scrap and/or rework problems
  - It appears that production is constantly in a state of chaos.
We want you to make more money!

- We will challenge the “way you think” about a potential plant layout project.
- We will question your motives on why you think it is necessary.
- We will drive you to a deeper understanding of your processes.
- If at that point, plant layout makes sense we have the tools and experience to help you through the process.
All our productivity improvement projects including plant layout include four phases;

• Determining what to change,
• Determining what to change to,
• Determining how to cause the change,
• Implementation of the change.