

Global Fitness

Lean Six Sigma as cross-location basis for groupwide operational excellence



Following the telecom crash, Huber+Suhner AG achieved a remarkable business turnaround. Barely re-dimensioned and back into the black, sales and turnovers are rallying already – reason enough for accelerating processes, sustainably eliminating inefficiencies and for further increasing customer satisfaction.

The Client

- Huber+Suhner AG, CH-Herisau, a leading manufacturer and provider of components and systems for electrical and optical connectivity
- Global workforce of 3.200 employees, operating 17 subsidiaries and represented in all the world's markets by over 100 distributors
- Main production facilities located in Switzerland, Poland, China and Brazil

The Objective

- Establish a groupwide programme of process optimisation and performance enhancement along the entire supply chain.

The Solution

- Evaluation and implementation of Lean Six Sigma as the procedural principle and toolbox for improvement projects with the following features:
 - Thorough and widespread training of key personnel as «Green Belts» in Lean Six Sigma
 - Establish a project management position for the coordination and support of the groupwide programme
 - Close monitoring of the four defined pilot projects
 - Firmly anchoring the programme at Executive Management level

The Client Benefit

- Increased throughput of improvement projects:
 - Solutions derived from the Toyota Productions System (TPS, Lean Production) lead to shorter throughput times, lower inventories and greater customer satisfaction
- The uniform project systematics simplifies cross-location collaboration during projects and allows optimal project controlling