

Airbus and Unipart Working together

By early 2000, as a result of higher build rates and the development of new aircraft variants, Airbus was challenging itself to improve efficiency in order to achieve shorter lead times and reduced cost. This led to a 'blue sky vision' programme focussed on implementing lean manufacturing and continuous improvement within the Broughton facility (wing manufacturing Centre of Excellence).

Airbus recognised the need to engage a partner that could bring established experience to bear in order to rapidly implement a lean solution within their logistics function. The partner would then need to challenge and facilitate the delivery of ongoing supply chain improvement.

In October 2002 Airbus appointed Unipart Logistics as a supply chain partner and Lean Logistics Service Partner for the Broughton operation. Unipart had been able to demonstrate a rich heritage in lean operations and a track record of developing and implementing lean logistics solutions for clients in a diverse range of industries.

Working as an integrated part of the Airbus organisation, Unipart assumed overall responsibility for a wide range of supply chain operations, drawing on experience gained in both its manufacturing and logistics environments to introduce Continuous Improvement practices and "Lean Principles". Unipart Logistics has also assisted in areas outside its direct responsibility, working closely with Airbus and suppliers for the progressive synchronisation of supply chain activities.

Scope of Direct Activity:

- Goods receiving and low rated inspection
- General warehouse operations
- Kitting operations for delivery to lineside on JIT basis
- Lineside delivery aligned to production "Takt" time

Productivity improved through:

- Implementation of Lean Principles and developing Unipart's culture of continuous improvement
- Improving operational control through introduction of standard operating procedures, visual controls and work-load planning
- Progressive synchronisation of extended supply chain activities.
- Supplier capability assessments and improvement programmes.
- Airbus manufacturing project planning and support
- Joint accreditation and best practice sharing of operations managed to Airbus and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Standards



Operational Data:

- Operational facility approx 80,000 sq ft
- >25,000 lines processed weekly
- Approx 14,000 SKU's
- 300+ kit configurations
- 170+ staff
- Recycling operations – slave fasteners
- 24-7-365 operational capability
- Local staff recruitment and specialist aerospace training / accreditation

Benefits Realised:

Working in close partnership with Airbus, Unipart Logistics has been successful in delivering significant benefits:

- Reduction in operational headcount activity allowing for reallocation of staff

Benefits continued...

- Inbound processing time reduced by 70%
- 80% reduction in lead time and kitting inventory for A320 Family production
- 16,000 man hour savings identified throughout the internal Supply Chain and Manufacturing areas-
- Improved layout and material flow releasing required floor space
- 30% recorded improvement in stock integrity levels
- 51% improvement in internal customer satisfaction score
- Consolidation of kitting operations allowing for integration of processes creating cost and space reductions



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