

MEP AT COLUMBUS STATE DEVELOPS COMPREHENSIVE AUTOMATION PLAN

ABOUT MCNEIL GROUP, INC. Pinnacle Metal Products provides design, fabrication, and installation services of miscellaneous steel for the construction industry. They are a family-owned single-location business located in Columbus, Ohio.

THE CHALLENGE. Over the lifetime of the company incremental technological improvements to the manufacturing facility have been implemented by the owner of the business to improve safety and throughput but have been constrained by a limited amount of time to put into further researching and implementing new technologies. MEP at Columbus State, part of the Ohio MEP and the MEP National Network™, was brought in to take on this challenge.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. To resolve this challenge, the MEP at Columbus State proposed the development of a comprehensive automation plan with a focus on proposing solutions that were modular and could be implemented across multiple process areas. To determine where opportunities were present, the existing processes were documented and analyzed for opportunities for improvement. A comprehensive user requirement document was generated for each identified opportunity to then request proposals from specific automation and material handling solution providers. Using this information, a comprehensive plan was developed to summarize the automation solutions throughout the facility and develop the business case.

"MEP identified material handling solutions to alleviate 2-man lift operations at several process areas; alleviating multiple bottlenecks due to operators being pulled from other operations."

-Matt Richards, Principal Consultant

RESULTS



33% increase in paint drying time



Improved ergonomics and safety at each process area.

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