

## ROMAN MANUFACTURING: APPLYING LEAN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES FOR SUCCESS

### ABOUT ROMAN MANUFACTURING INC. RoMan

Manufacturing, founded in 1980 and located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a family-owned company with a deep commitment to manufacturing water-cooled, high-current and low-voltage power sources to the highest quality standards. As a global brand, RoMan is dedicated to providing innovative solutions in a constantly evolving globalized market. RoMan's family of companies includes non-ferrous casting and full panel integration capabilities, employing more than 230 people.

**THE CHALLENGE.** RoMan faced significant challenges due to rapid growth and the need for effective leadership in multiple departments. The acquisition of the Power Systems product line during the COVID-19 pandemic presented unexpected growth and the necessity to promote from within, given external labor market difficulties. The promotion of an internal staff member required RoMan to quickly formulate a plan to equip them with a solid understanding of lean principles and practices.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** RoMan recognized the need for focused leadership training, which included lean principles and practices. Through connections at Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC), part of the MEP National Network™, RoMan's newly-promoted supervisor collaborated to establish workflow improvements; align work centers to facilitate sub-assembly flow into the primary work area; set up a sustainable pitch and work cadence; and develop standardized work procedures. This learning journey encompassed not only technical skills, but also critical leadership skills, enriching the power system division's associates and aligning their focus on key performance indicators (KPIs).

"MMTC's contribution to RoMan's lean journey over the past 11+ years has been invaluable, enabling us to enhance operational efficiencies and compete effectively in a globalized market. This task was unique, focusing not on teaching processes but on developing a young, high-potential individual within our organization. MMTC's connections proved to be the perfect mentor for this transformation, bridging the gap from an engineering mindset to an operational one. Moving forward we've established a blueprint and culture that nurtures the success of individuals aspiring to advance within RoMan."

-Chad Schondelmayer, VP of Operations

## RESULTS



4 new full-time employees



80% increase in output since the beginning of the project



Approximately **\$750,000** in cost savings in 2023



Entry into new markets resulting in an increase of **\$360,000** per week in sales



Huddle boards and group discussions leading to 1-2 continuous improvement activities per week

## CONTACT US



45501 Helm St.  
Plymouth, MI 48170



(734)451-4200



[www.the-center.org](http://www.the-center.org)

MICHIGAN  
MANUFACTURING  
TECHNOLOGY  
CENTER