

FACILITY REORGANIZATION INCREASES COST SAVINGS

ABOUT RANGER DIE, INC. A supplier of Class A dies and metal stampings, Ranger Die has grown with its customers by offering services ranging from initial design to production since 1955. By 2013, operations growth had outpaced their Walker, Mich., building, leading them to relocate to a new, state-of-the-art 105,000-square-foot facility in Coopersville, Michigan. Led since 2007 by Joe, Leo and Steve Raap - brothers with 83 years of combined experience with the company - Ranger Die continues to grow, with more than 70 employees serving customers worldwide.

THE CHALLENGE. Since moving to its new location, the company has added new products and equipment and has had to expand products onsite to meet customer needs. This has led to poor space utilization, less than optimal product flow, and increased time searching for supplies. Ranger Die was looking for ways to resolve these issues and to introduce employees to lean.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Employees were introduced to lean thinking through a 5S/visual control training program offered by the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (The Center), part of the Michigan MEP and the MEP National Network™. Participants were taught how to create, maintain and improve the lean standard so exceptions/variations are visible, and action can be swift to identify and correct root cause. The outcome was a complete reorganization of the second-floor warehouse space.

"The team at The Center did a great job of organizing and administering the 5S/Visual Control training. With the Lean tools, our team engaged early and completed this project on time. The results were significant as one of our customers couldn't believe the transformation. We look forward to using the tools we learned and the experience we gained on our project."

-Paul Allen, Operations Manager

RESULTS



\$30,984 in cost savings through reduced material handling and less time spent looking for products



Excellent starter project to get team culture to focus on lean processes



Returned value-add sort operation in-house for better visibility and control



Added monthly sustainability walks to ensure space is maintained as intended

CONTACT US



45501 Helm St.
Plymouth, MI 48170-0000



(734)451-4200



www.the-center.org

MICHIGAN
MANUFACTURING
TECHNOLOGY
CENTER