
Issue Brief – Lean Manufacturing Program (OWATC)

NUMBER UCAT-07

SUMMARY

The Ogden Weber ATC has an opportunity to expand its lean manufacturing program, which is currently offered only on a limited basis. With a partnership, the ATC can provide a simulated lean manufacturing production environment to complement the instructional piece.

OBJECTIVE

Additional funding to expand the Lean Manufacturing program at the OWATC will allow the program to provide instruction and simulated training for students in northern Utah.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Lean manufacturing is a systematic approach to identifying and eliminating waste and improving efficiency through continuous improvement. It reduces overhead, lead time, inventory, the cost of operations and the time-to-market. It also increases the visibility of business performance and simplifies work processes and areas.

A donation of approximately \$25 million worth of lean manufacturing equipment has been made to the Ogden Weber ATC. The donation also includes shipping the 25 CNC milling machines to the OWATC and providing \$4 million to set up the machinery, and provide the tooling, inspection equipment, and materials. All utilities are also being paid for.

To fully utilize this high tech machinery, the OWATC will need to expand its lean manufacturing program by hiring two additional instructors and providing the necessary support functions. This program will train students who can then be hired by employers such as Williams International, Autoliv, and Parker Aerospace. These companies have initiated lean manufacturing strategies to improve their design and become more competitive. This donation provides a unique opportunity to train students and provide economic development for the northern part of the State.

The Analyst recommends funding in the amount of \$326,000 to expand the OWATC lean manufacturing program and fully utilize the donated equipment.

