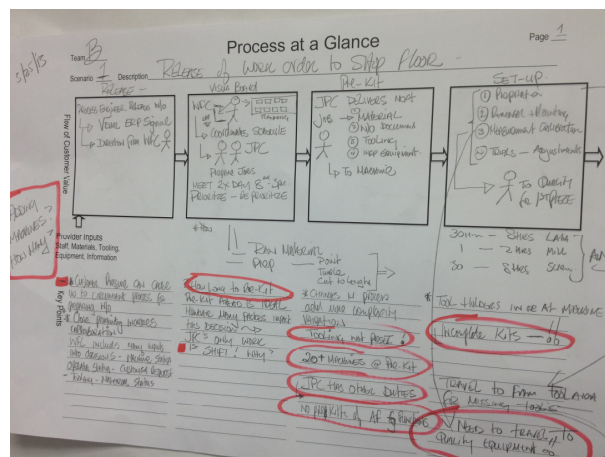




3P Event Gets Dacon and AccuRounds on the Same Page Regarding New Building Layout: *A GBMP Lean Case Study*

During a recent Production Preparation Process (3P) event, Dacon Corporation, a Natick-based design and construction management firm, and AccuRounds, a contract manufacturer of precision turned components, worked together to envision and document potential layouts for a proposed new building at AccuRounds' Avon, MA site.

Coached by Bob Elliott, GBMP Continuous Improvement Manager, the cross functional/cross company team from AccuRounds and Dacon used 3P (Production, Preparation, Process) lean principles, expert input from team members and visits to the existing AccuRounds facility to inform and test their layout assumptions and ideas. The goal of the event was to collaborate in the early stages of building planning in order to improve each organization's project decisions and future efforts, with a goal of ultimately designing, engineering and constructing a facility that supports and enables the lean enterprise model that AccuRounds follows. This type of concentrated improvement event sets an objective to create a facility that allows for perfectly performing processes from day one of occupancy. It challenges participants to think outside the box in a collaborative way, leveraging lean thinking and tools to develop process and design breakthroughs. The idea is to embrace rapid prototyping to test concepts rather than just reinventing the same space and the same processes within



Current "Process at a Glance" sheet: this visual method captures the way works flows today at AccuRounds and the issues circled in red indicate aspects of the process that could be better.



the walls of a new building.

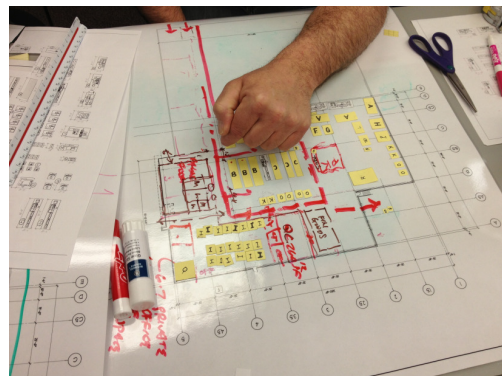


Dacon architect, Dennis McCarthy, and AccuRounds Quality Manager, Corey Hartwell, work on a bubble diagram for the new building

The two days were spent first understanding in detail the current processes used to satisfy AccuRounds customers, then envisioning improvements to those processes, and finally came “trystorming” (a combination of brainstorming and rapid prototyping) in order to arrive at new layouts that enable the concepts the team came up with. Tools such as “bubble diagrams” and “paper doll layouts” were utilized to support the “trystorming” efforts and

participants were encouraged to come up with as many versions of adjacency plans and layouts as possible to stimulate outside the box thinking.

At the end of the second day, small sub-teams had created 3 distinct draft layouts and presented/discussed them with the larger team. Flow of people, material, information, production, and supplies were taken into consideration in each layout and at the end of the event, a commitment was made to share the 3 draft layouts with all AccuRounds employees in the following week, in order to get further input/comments/suggestions. The next step will be another joint meeting between AccuRounds and Dacon to select some or all of the edited drafts for further refinement, such as better definition of space requirements and review of other facility and systems related considerations.



Working on one of the 3 “Paper Doll” layouts the team created.



"I was sold on the 3P process after the first morning of the event," said Kevin Quinn, Dacon President and Principal. "As we documented AccuRounds' quote to shipment activities on the 'Process at a Glance' sheets, I was struck by how many similarities there were to Dacon's processes. Although we think we are in a very different business, we are both trying to get the right material and information to the right people at the right time, in an efficient manner. It is as necessary at Dacon as it is at AccuRounds. Each of our companies is focused on quality, cost, lead-time and customer satisfaction. I knew right away I was learning a method that could benefit internal Dacon efforts as well as our customer projects. And it just got better from there!"



AccuRounds CEO and Owner, Michael Tamasi, listens to one of the layout sub-team presentations.

AccuRounds President and Owner, Michael Tamasi, echoed those thoughts. "I didn't expect to be very involved in the 3P event, but once we started documenting and discussing the details of our business and drawing on the collective knowledge of the Dacon and AccuRounds contributors who were in the room and envisioning a better AccuRounds, I was hooked. I pretty much spent the whole two days with the team. I could tell Dacon really wanted to understand where we want our business to go, and how our future plans should inform their thinking about this design and construction project.

We developed several new perspectives and ideas over the two days and it was so refreshing to see

AccuRounds employees, architects and project planners working so well together. Everyone was engaged, animated and excited by the potential of what we could achieve for this new building."



Dacon Corporation, Natick, MA is a fully integrated design and construction management firm. Dacon's multidisciplinary team is made up of knowledgeable and experienced professionals who specialize in architectural design, engineering, construction management, and general contracting. Dacon provides complete facility development services all under one roof to manage clients' unique project requirements. Over 75 percent of Dacon clients are repeat clients. For more information about Dacon please visit www.dacon1.com

AccuRounds, founded in 1976, is a contract manufacturer that machines and assembles precision turned components. With more than 35 years of experience serving multiple industries including medical/dental, aerospace, defense, semiconductor and emerging technology markets, AccuRounds is a trusted supplier of high quality parts. AccuRounds was at the forefront of the manufacturing industry in 1995 when it embarked on a quest to become a World Class manufacturing operation. In 2006, AccuRounds won The Shingo Prize Northeast Silver Medallion, the first contract metalworking company in North America to do so. For more information about AccuRounds please visit www.accurounds.com

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