

AMERICAN TOOL COMPANY ENJOYS BENEFITS OF ISO + LEAN WITH HELP FROM POLARIS MEP

COMPANY PROFILE

Phil McCally was 10 years old in 1985 when his family purchased Lincoln, RI-based American Tool Company (ATC), a quality machining company with demonstrated expertise in turning, milling and drilling.

Originally founded in 1918, ATC has produced complex one-off parts for a wide variety of clients. Their primary market is capital equipment makers "100 miles from Lincoln."



SITUATION

Like many who grew up in a manufacturing family, McCally was exposed to the business early on, sweeping the floor at 10 and working in production as a young adult. He secured a mechanical engineering degree and later left ATC for a few years to work at Rolls Royce Naval Marine. Working for this larger company at a higher tier in the Department of Defense (DoD) supply chain, McCally saw which suppliers were doing the best work.

"The shops all had ISO and some other qualifications. So, I felt the first step American Tool Company should take was to get ISO certified, not only to make us more competitive for DoD work but also to make us more crisp as an organization. The Quality team could communicate better with customers and with the shop floor."

SOLUTION

A Gap Analysis identified areas that would need to be addressed for ISO 9001:2015 certification. Cinieri worked together with ATC leadership to help fill those gaps and provided training to the entire ATC team prior to their audit.

Polaris MEP helped American Tool secure grant funding from the State of Rhode Island for employee training in Quality, Lean principles and 5S. This freed up time and money to invest in other improvements, such as an electronic visual metrics board on the production floor, a new Lean layout for the quality control area, and an employee training matrix. areas.

IMPACTS



3 new jobs; 15 employee positions retained



Investments of \$120,000 in plant improvements and equipment



Investment of \$30,000 in new processes



Cost savings of \$150,000 in both direct savings and by avoiding unnecessary investments

To learn more, read the full Success Story at:

bit.ly/4ftfZR7



"[Polaris MEP] came in for almost a year, getting us ready for the first audit," said McCally. "[They] became one of us. [They were] integrated with the machinists and quality control. [Polaris MEP] really went through the whole organization from soup to nuts."

Phil McCally
President



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