

Lean Thoughts

Inspired People

Robust Processes

Lean Operations

August 23, 2004

For all **Consortium** events – Contact Richard for more information.. For other events – contact directly

Important Consortium Dates to add to your calendar

The **Team Time** schedule has been established for the coming year. Team Time will start at 1:00pm at the host company. This will allow for folks to work with peers in the host site to collaborate, facilitate and implement ideas to advance the implementation of manufacturing excellence. *Participants should be prepared to work on the shop floor and come equipped with proper PPE.* The host site will advise 1 week in advance Team Time Projects. Part of the Team Time activity will include a plant tour.

- September 09, Team Time, CGL Manufacturing** contact Dave Desker, daved@cglmfg.com
- September 15 & 16, Lean Conference Canada, Ottawa Congress Centre** contact www.leanConferenceCanada.com to register
- September 25, Consortium ShareShowcase, Eaton Cutler-Hammer** contact Joe Fisher, JoeRFisher@eaton.com
- October 14, Team Time, CTS Corp.** contact Bob Garces, Bob.Garces@ac.ctscorp.com
- October 18-22, AME Annual Conference, Cincinnati.** contact www.ame.org for details
- November 11, Team Time, Morrison Lamthe.** contact Tony Vita, tvita@morrisonlamthe.com
- December 09, Team Time, Inscape.** contact Joe Cyr, jcyr@inscapesolutions.com
- January 06, Team Time, Alumabrite Inc.,** contact Richard Kunst, Richard.Kunst@Kromet.com
- February 10, Team Time, Kromet International.** contact Richard Kunst, Richard.Kunst@Kromet.com



Consortium Practitioner Circles

- o **Set-up Reduction host Stackpole CSD Aug. 25** contact Don Barber Don.Barber@stackpole.ca
- o **Create Flow in a High Mix Low Volume Environment, Host; Messier-Dowty, Sept.01** contact Richard Evans, Richard.Evans@Messier-Dowty.on.ca
- o **Formal Problem Solving, Basic, Six Sigma and Jidoka, Host: Morrison Lamothe Sept.08** contact Mike Richards mrichards@morrisonlamothe.com
- o **Creating Cells and Flow Synchronization, Host Kraft, TBA** contact Hanif hijvrage@kraft.com
- o **Advance Part Quality Planning (APQP) or new part introduction Host, CFN Precision Sept. 20,** contact Barry Wood bwood@cfn-inc.com
- o **Creating the Visual Factory host, Eaton Cutler-Hammer, Sept 09** contact, Joe Fisher JoeRFisher@eaton.com
- o **Effective Health & Safety host Alumabrite date TBA** contact Bob Krosue Bob.Krouse@alumabrite.com
- o **5S+1 Implement, Enhance and Sustain host, Nestle Waters** contact Mariela Castano mcastano@perriergroup.com
- o **First Time and Sustainable Quality host, CTS of Canada** contact Bob Garces Bob.Garces@ac.ctscorp.com
- o **Hyjunkia & Creating the Lean Office host, Kodak of Canada** contact Joanne Heighway Joanne.Heighway@Kodak.com

TOM PETERS' ASIAN OBSERVATIONS

The following note and link was borrowed from Jim Pinto's regular newsletter. Tom Peter's has always had good insight and is always worth a read .. enjoy

Tom Peters was in Japan recently, and studied the local papers to recover from jet lag. He shares some of his findings in "Staying in Bed (in Tokyo)". Here are a few highlights from his reactions to what he read in Nikkei Weekly:

* Japan depends far more on manufacturing than the U.S. or Europe, and is in a panic about keeping a grip on traditional bases of competitive advantage.

* Low-price strategy is now outdated. Firms gaining more market share are fueled largely by the incorporation of design and unique functions into popular products.

Other Tom Peters' messages from the East include "China! China! China!", on the subject of China's expanding economic reach. Plus a glowing report on Bangalore, India-based Infosys Technologies.

Tom's sums up his excitement: "I feel like a kid in an idea candy store when I'm out of the country, particularly when

Lean Thoughts

Inspired People

Robust Processes

Lean Operations

I'm in Asia. So much going on! The planet is not just the U.S.A. and the Middle East!"

Tom Peters in Tokyo:

<http://www.tompetersnew.com/entries.php?note=001388.php>

Tom Peters on China:

<http://www.tompetersnew.com/entries.php?note=001389.php>

Tom Peters on Bangalore, India-based Infosys:

<http://www.tompetersnew.com/entries.php?note=001392.php>

Subscribe to Tom Peters Times at:

http://www.tompeters.com/your_world/join_the_fray/

MICROSOFT PATENTS HUMAN SKIN AS A NETWORK MEDIUM

It seems like a joke, but it isn't. Microsoft has actually been awarded a patent to use the human body as a computer network. US Patent 6,754,472 issued to Microsoft in June 2004 is for a "method and apparatus for transmitting power and data using the human body".

Today many carry a variety of portable electronic gadgets, each with its own keypad, speaker, display, processor and power supply. The idea behind the patent is to get rid of some of these items. If these gadgets were networked, they could, for example, have just one keypad for all devices.

And that keypad might even be the body, perhaps the wrist or arm.

The patent reads, "The physical resistance offered by the human body can be used in implementing a keypad or other input device, as well as estimating distances between devices and device locations. With the present invention, by varying the distance on the skin between the contacts corresponding to different keys, different signal values can be generated representing different inputs." So, you can type on your skin.

Microsoft also suggests using the body to generate power for the network.

A "kinetic power converter" in a person's shoe, or wristwatch, could produce electricity in the same way that a self-winding watch extracts energy from normal movements.

People who want to use so-called personal area network (PAN) today have to link their mobile phones, pagers, PDAs and other gadgets using infra-red or radio signals like Bluetooth. Microsoft's patent points out that these have limitations - they typically use a lot of power and are prone to interference from others operating on similar frequencies. Also, people may be able to hack into them

or listen in. Microsoft claims that its "intradbody network" doesn't suffer from these problems, and provides a secure transfer data between personal devices.

Actually, Microsoft is not the pioneer in this technology. The MIT Media Lab and IBM jointly developed the idea of using the human body as a personal network nearly a decade ago. The first prototype PAN was demonstrated at Comdex in 1996, showing how two people could transmit business-cards to each other via a handshake. But, little has been done since then, since most people seem satisfied with Bluetooth PANs.

Lean Conference Canada

The **Ottawa ManufacturesNetwork** is hosting a **Mini Lean Conference on September 15 & 16 at the Ottawa Congress Centre**. Speaking with a member of the organizing committee commented that the key-note speaker Linda Lundstrom is a success story similar to one we heard at the AME Toronot Conference by Dale Crownover ... judging by the site there are many new speakers so it could fill your toolbox with new and refreshing ideas. For further information and to register visit www.leanConferenceCanada.com. This looks like a real bargain ... and as always Ottawa is a great city to visit and explore.

Don't Mess with Kids ... Some Straight Talk

A little girl: was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher: said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl: stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher: reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl: said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher: asked, " What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl: replied, "Then you ask him