



Streamlining Multi-Facility Flow

IET evaluated the current production system and worked with the new facility design team to streamline a new single floor facility design.

The Customer

A leading manufacturer of smokeless tobacco products, who manages numerous continuous processing lines to produce hundreds of variations of chew tobacco products from raw tobacco to packaged products for the world market.

The Challenge

This process has evolved over the past fifty years and now encompasses three different buildings on multiple levels. Material flow to and from the line is a critical component of effective utilization and the disrupted layout and limited work areas have created varied constraints in the production system. A new facility plan is being considered and improved material flow will be a critical component of this new capital investment justification.

The Solutions

IET evaluated current constraints, inventory and line stocking strategies, indirect labor requirements and overall material flow and worked with the new facility design team to streamline a new single floor facility design. Utilizing at-point-of-use storage, kanban line restocking, visual control systems, and lean inventory strategies, IET supported the new designs to actually reduce planned space requirements by nearly 40%. In addition, IET engineers assessed the specific labor requirements and improved line performance factors to establish confident improvements to assess cost-benefits of the new facility investment. Specific layouts and staffing models were developed to support and minimize the total space requirements. The client is moving forward with the single facility design implementation.

“IET engineers replaced the opinions and assumptions of the new designed facility with sound industrial engineering modeling and helped create a new facility design that could be realistically justified.”

New Facility Program Manager

iet

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How can IET help you?

Any way you need us to.

Productivity

Current production standards
 Current production performance
 Detailed reasons for variances
 Detailed plan for improvement
 Goal-setting, accountability

Capacity planning

Key capital resources
 Direct and indirect labor
 Salaried personnel
 Facilities

New manufacturing

Detailed process map
 Layout
 Facilities
 Labor
 Support

Indirect labor design

Standards
 Material handling
 Supervision
 Maintenance
 Plan for improvement

Total value analysis

Make vs. buy
 Site selection
 Consolidation
 Vertical integration
 Horizontal integration