

## An implementation of lean scheduling in a job shop environment

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### ABSTRACT

Globalization has demanded innovative manufacturing and continuous improvement in order to stay competitive. This need has compelled the manufacturing world to devise strategies for producing cost-efficient parts without compromising quality. The Toyota Production System was at the beginning of such initiatives. It was successful in addressing cost through elimination of non-value-added time and quality by monitoring and controlling the productions of defective parts. Lean thinking originated from the Toyota Production System and inherited its concepts and methodology. In contrast to the Toyota Production System, the implementation of lean has been proposed in almost every domain of life. In the manufacturing domain it is a common misconception that lean is suitable for mass production only. This research has been built upon the belief that lean is for everything and has challenged this stereotype by implementing it within a job shop environment. A manufacturing industry was selected that was rebuilding battlefield tanks. The existing system was suffering delays and missing delivery targets due to uncertain and costly production. The proposed and existing systems were modeled and simulated using Arena 10.0 software. This work was successful in reducing the manufacturing-lead time, work in process inventory and average cycle times with a reduction in cost and space utilization. Cost benefit analysis was performed showing that the proposed system would be beneficial after 1500 parts. We are further expanding our proposed approach towards the tool manufacturing shop in order to study the impact of lean and its suitability for scheduling in job shops.

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### POVZETEK

Globalizacija zahteva inovativno proizvodnjo in neprestano izboljševanje podjetij, da bi ostala konkurenčna. To od podjetij zahteva izvajanje strategij za stroškovno učinkovito proizvodnjo izdelkov, brez ogrožanja njihove kakovosti. Toyotin proizvodni sistem je ena izmed takšnih iniciativ, ki znižuje stroške z odpravo aktivnosti, ki ne dodajajo vrednosti ter zagotavlja kakovost s pomočjo spremljanja in kontrole proizvodnje neustreznih izdelkov. Koncept vitkega razmišljanja izhaja iz Toyotinega proizvodnega sistema in je nasledil njegove koncepte in metodologije. Koncept vitkosti lahko najdemo v vsakodnevnem življenju in ni omejen le na proizvodna okolja. V proizvodnih okoljih vlada napačno prepričanje, da je koncept vitkosti primeren zgolj za velikoserijsko proizvodnjo. Zato pričujoča raziskava dokazuje, da je koncept vitkosti primeren za vsa okolja. Osredotoča se na okolje naročniške proizvodnje. Izbrali smo industrijo, ki se ukvarja z rekonstrukcijo vojaških tankov. Obstoječi sistem je povzročal zamude in kršitve dobavnih rokov zaradi negotovosti in drage proizvodnje. Nov predlagan sistem smo modelirali s pomočjo programske opreme Arena 10.0. Dosegli smo skrajšanje proizvodnih pretočnih časov in znižanje procesnih zalog s sočasnim znižanjem stroškov in učinkovitejšo izrabo prostora. Izvedli smo analizo stroškov in koristi, ki je pokazala, da predlagan sistem postane koristen pri proizvodnji nad 1500 izdelkov. Naš pristop smo še dodatno preizkusili v proizvodnji orodij, da bi lahko preučili vpliv vitkosti in njene primernosti na področju terminiranja.

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### PODATKI O ČLANKU

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