

Gold Mining and Production

In 2007, a mid tier gold mining client engaged Implementation Services to lead its Continuous Improvement Program implementation. The partnership began with the development of Performance Analyticssm to give the leadership team visibility to their operation's key indicators including gaps between current and planned performance. These gaps represented valuable opportunity for the Client, and Implementation Services introduced Lean Six Sigma as a means to capture some of this lost value.

Objectives

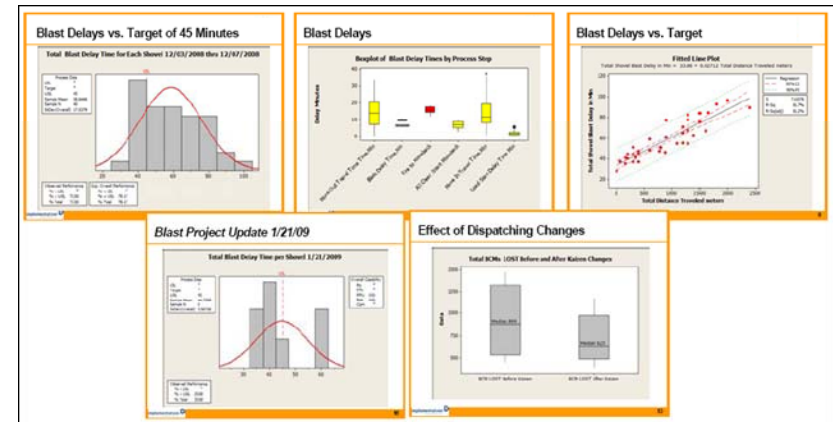
Assist and mentor the Client with its newly introduced Continuous Improvement Program.

Approach

Implementation Services worked with the Client to identify and select candidates for Six Sigma training. We helped select and charter projects to execute which led to belt certification. This learn-by-doing method was critical for reinforcing learned techniques and demonstrating acumen. The Black Belts followed the DMAIC approach (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control) and employed a variety of Six Sigma and other improvement techniques to achieve the targeted gains. They enlisted Green Belts and other team members from the impacted areas to generate ownership of the results and keep the momentum for improvement going.

Results

- To date, 17 of the over 50 projects identified during the 2008 Value Stream Analysis have been completed with an overall benefit of US\$18.3M from increased revenues and cost savings.
- An additional US\$15.2M of benefits are expected from "in process" projects that will be completed in 2009.
- Early estimates from additional "planned" projects are expected to generate another US\$20 – 25M in benefits.



Our classroom and learn-by-doing approach accelerates Lean Six Sigma Program benefits realization and ensures the project leaders are working on the right projects for the business, using the appropriate tools, and getting results.