

Prestigious Lean Institute Crystal Award Presented to Symbolic Displays, Inc.

Employers Group awards Symbolic Displays, Inc. with “Best Initial Implementation of Lean/5S Workplace Organization”.

Santa Ana, California April 27, 2010 – Symbolic Displays, Inc., a small woman-owned manufacturer of aerospace instrumentation, has been awarded the “Best Initial Implementation of Lean/5S Workplace Organization” by Mark Wilbur, President, of the Employers Group. SDI was selected from a group of 50 organizations that completed training in 2009.

Symbolic Displays, Inc. (SDI) designs and manufactures lighted components and avionics displays for specific military and commercial aerospace programs and specializes in illuminated, multi-functional displays, integrated panels, control keyboards and annunciators. Product lines include LCD-based Simulator Displays – Night Vision (NVIS) capable, LED-based lighting systems for displays and panels, edge lit panels (ELP), avionic lighted integrated panels and keyboards, switch bezels, self-powered warning/caution EXIT signs, and cockpit markers/pointers for commercial and military aircraft.

SDI provides full turnkey solutions including in-house engineering and manufacturing capabilities in support of all levels of system development and integration serving military and commercial avionics, marine, and ground-based platforms. SDI’s resources include a fully equipped CNC and manual machine shop, laser/photo chemical etching, paint and toning facilities, component and final assembly cells: printed circuit board, harness, lighting assemblies, and a functional clean room to custom cut and resize COTS LCD glass. Manufacturing capabilities are supported with ISO 9001 and AS 9100 certified quality programs.

Key customers include Boeing, CAE, General Dynamics, L-3 Communications, Lockheed Martin, Rockwell/Flight Dynamics, Teledyne, and Thales. SDI’s products have been used on many commercial and military programs such as B737, B777, A320, F-15, F-22, B-1B, Apache, and Mark II Trident.

Lean/5S training generates excitement within an organization because individuals, working units, departments and even the entire organization have a chance to improve the way they complete everyday tasks that create value for their customers. 5S is one aspect of lean and describes how the workplace should be organized by building a clear understanding of how work should be completed and instilling ownership within each employee. The 5S’s are: Sorting, Straightening, Shining, Standardizing, Sustaining. Kaizen is another aspect of lean philosophy. Kaizen is Japanese for “change for the better” and represents an organization’s commitment to utilize lean as a strategic tool for continuous improvement.

The “Best Initial Implementation of Lean/5S Workplace Organization” is awarded to an organization who has embarked on an initial lean effort and has completed a lean 5S event with extraordinary results. This award exists to encourage companies to continue their lean efforts because they recognize the value of 5S and the supporting lean principles. During the Fall of 2009, SDI committed to a state-funded 5S project that took a cross-section of 16 employees through 4 consecutive days of 5S training. The 5S project targeted SDI’s Paint Department and radically transformed this area to improve process flow and efficiency. General Manager of SDI, Tony Lopez, stated, “Employers Group training and assistance with the implementation of a 5S program in our Paint Shop has produced exceptional results, with a noticeable increase in productivity, greater work output, and lower levels of rework and scrap. The Lean/5S principles have improved work-flow visibility, allowing quicker identification of problems and

solutions. The program has contributed to elevated employee morale, strengthened pride in their work, and empowered them to actively sustain their work environment. Other managers have been inspired and motivated by the results, adopting many of the 5S practices in their own work areas.” Dave Burkhart, Employers Group Lean Specialist, agrees with this outcome stating, “It is rare that a single 5S event provides a fundamental transformation to not only the business process that the event focused on but an infectious desire to continue improvement efforts throughout the organization.” According to Mr. Lopez, SDI is committed to continue building on the foundations of the 5S program and has already planned subsequent 5S training in SDI’s Machine Shop.

Candy Suits, CEO/President of Symbolic Displays, Inc. supports the company’s training efforts, stating, “We immediately recognized the value of 5S training and felt that the completion of this project was an opportunity for us to support the context of our mission statement and prove our commitment to continuous improvement.” SDI’s mission statement is “To Continue to Improve and Provide the Highest Quality Products and Services that Satisfy our Customers’ Expectations.”

Employers Group, a California-based human resources expert and advocate, serves employers nationwide by delivering human resources solutions to its members. They provide assistance to companies across the globe in mitigating risk, cutting costs, and advocating for employer rights. Employers Group provides a member helpline with day-to-day guidance about employment laws and regulations, professional development, consulting projects, and compensation and workplace trends surveys. Employers Group began the Lean Institute in 2007 as a way for an organization to not only understand what lean is and how lean can benefit their operations, but how lean can be implemented and sustained internally to create value to the end customer.

More information

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