



SOUTH WEST TRAINS

Lean Depot Stores

The Challenge

South West Trains –Network Rail Alliance operates around 1,600 trains a day on a network in the South and South West England. They serve more than 200 stations and employ around 4,500 people.

In line with HLOS (High Level Output Specification) the fleet will grow in size by 22% over a 2 year period, therefore increasing the maintenance and storage requirements at Wimbledon depot. Following strategic reviews with Unipart Rail, it was proposed that Unipart Expert Practices team undertake a detailed Inventory and Warehouse analysis and design a new stores layout based on Lean processes to ensure Wimbledon depot stores could meet the additional demand.

The Solution

To support this six South West trains – Network Rail Alliance staff attended Unipart Expert Practices Lean Academy. The Lean Academy is designed to teach Lean tools and techniques that will be used within their project and provide an opportunity to practice them in a safe environment.

Our Expert Practitioners worked with the team throughout the project following our standard methodology. Key activities undertaken by Unipart Expert Practices and the Alliance team included;

- Working at the Depot to establish storage footprints, classify existing storage media, storage space available and current ways of working
- Mapping of physical locations to the movement of the materials
- Documentation of material and information flow between stores and production
- Development of new storage layouts that is founded on a Lean methodology that would meet the future material requirements
- Development of standard Lean processes to manage and sustain the stores operation
- Developing Lean Capability within the team throughout the project

"I believe that the approach adopted for the project was the right approach, with the Unipart team fully understanding SSWT's remit, with the lean practitioners delivering the expected outcomes against each area of the project scope. SSWT are extremely pleased with the service provided, and recognise the benefits of using Unipart Rail on this engagement".

Kevin Griffin, Head of Fleet Contracts



The Result

As a result of this project Unipart Expert Practices and South West Trains- Network Rail Alliance have improved the utilisation of the current storage space and redeveloped other areas within the depot to create an **extra 24% of space.**

Process improvements have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the stores and have enabled them to improve their service to production, **reducing visits to the stores by the production teams by 54%.**

A Lean capability and engaged workforce with the ability to identify and resolve issues has been delivered to support sustainment and continuous improvement.

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