

Cost reduction of several hundred million yen for one process through video analysis and improvements in 0.1-second units

Industry	Manufacturing
No. of employees	1,020 ^{*1}
Sales revenue	23.7 billion yen ^{*2}

*1: current as of January 2018 *2: current as of December 2017

Issue

Before introduction

Stopping of improvements at the level visible to the naked eye and stagnation of related activities



Effect

of introduction

Improvement activities through efforts at the level of more detailed units

Company profile

Marugo Rubber Industries, Ltd.



- Founded/Established in May 1919/January 1954
- Address 58 Kamitomii, Kurashiki, Okayama 710-8505
- Description of business
 - Manufacturing and sales of vibration control parts, hoses, and other automotive rubber parts
 - Manufacturing and sales of various industrial rubber parts

Interviewee



Mr. Hiroyasu Siozu (Left), Assistant Manager

Vibration Control Division, Head Office Plant

Mr. Hiroaki Yamamoto (Right)

Production Division, Head Office Plant

Background of introduction (issue)

Limited effects in spite of long-term improvement efforts

In addition to providing vibration control rubber that absorbs automobile vibration to major automobile manufacturers, Marugo Rubber Industries is involved in various rubber products. Although the company has conducted improvement activities for a while and once achieved a considerable inventory reduction, such efforts had not recently had any obvious effects.



"The only improvements we were making were those visible to the naked eye, and they did not reach the level of overall improvements for which the flow was considered. I suppose you could say that we were making isolated improvements, as opposed to more general ones."

-Mr. Siozu, the manager of improvement activities at Marugo Rubber Industries

"Even though we conducted training related to improvement activities, this was not being implemented on-site. We relied on individuals to notice points requiring improvement, but the result was that none of the workers spoke up, and the related activities stagnated." -Mr. Siozu

Why OTRS was selected

The major improvement effects experienced by customers using OTRS were the deciding factor

Given the above situation, it was necessary to improve plant operations to respond to customer requirements as well. OTRS came up as a tool for reliably promoting improvement activities. Because Mitsubishi Motors, one of the company's customers, had already utilized OTRS to achieve improvement effects, the decision was quickly made to introduce the software.

"OTRS had already been used by Mitsubishi Motors and other major automobile manufacturers in our customer base to satisfy their requirements, so we were confident that the software would be effective for our company's improvement activities as well and did not hesitate to introduce it." -Mr. Siozu

Introductory process

Establishment of an operational structure that included the assignment of a full-time person in charge upon introducing OTRS

Marugo Rubber Industries actually introduced an older version of OTRS before, but using the software required a certain level of skill, so it did not get used much. The latest version of OTRS is much easier to use, which is one thing the company likes about it.

"OTRS is easy to use even for our on-site staff. Another thing appealing about it is that charts, graphs, and even operating cycle diagrams are displayed after performing an operational analysis, so comparison videos and manuals can be easily created." -Mr. Yamamoto

In addition, to ensure good improvement-activity progress, a full-time person in charge was decided on upon introduction, and an operational structure in which Mr. Siozu personally looks over every QC circle report was set up.

"To promote cross-organizational activities that go beyond management, I started my work as the improvement-activity manager by commenting on what I wanted people to be careful of, points requiring improvement, and other issues. I also think that appointing a full-time person in charge helped to facilitate smooth OTRS operations in practice and led to increased effects." -Mr. Siozu

Effect of introduction

Cost reduction of several hundred million yen for one process through video confirmation and improvements in 0.1-second units

The company has already seen various effects in terms of using OTRS to make improvements. For example, in the case of a certain painting process, there were frequent issues with uneven coating. When OTRS was used to perform a video analysis of the situation, it was discovered that the spray gun was set up in an unsuitable position, which was causing the paint not to reach well enough. As a result of adjusting the gun position, it became completely unnecessary to touch up the work, which led to a cost reduction of several million yen for just one process. In addition, as a result of making various improvements to the procedures and other elements of another process, the cycle time was reduced from 89 to 50 seconds, a considerable 39-second reduction.

"Because OTRS enabled us to specify settings in 0.1-second units as opposed to 1-second units, we were able to make improvements that would have been difficult if relying on vision alone, such as the uneven application of paint by our spray gun. In addition, some workers resist procedural changes due to their own habits and what they've gotten used to, but showing them comparison videos made it possible to convince them that the new procedures were faster and thus promote improvements." -Mr. Yamamoto

The company plans to utilize these comparison videos for future employee training as well.



"No one ever thinks there are inefficiencies with their own work, so helping people to notice these inefficiencies leads to the ability to make improvements. One major advantage of OTRS videos is their ability to help people notice such problems." -Mr. Siozu

The next step

We want to train employees in charge of improvements full-time to further accelerate our activities

As a result of conducting activities for one year after appointing a person to be in charge of OTRS full-time, people at other job sites expressed a wish to use OTRS to make improvements. The company started by focusing on processes at the Head Office Plant, where it was necessary to increase the yield as soon as possible, but the company plans to extend its improvement activities to the Yakage Plant and other plants as well, and even provide guidance for subcontractors. In addition, because Marugo Rubber Industries is working on making mechanical improvements as well, the company is taking steps to establish an environment where safer, more efficient work is possible by improving not only the way people work but also jigs and equipment.

"We hope to further accelerate our improvement activities by using OTRS to save on labor and achieve more personnel leeway while simultaneously training employees to be in charge of improvements full-time at each job site. We plan to start by teaching the basics of making improvements to all of our staff members in rotation." -Mr. Siozu

User feedback

OTRS makes it possible to notice things invisible to the naked eye. Personally checking videos facilitates work-procedure optimization.

As a result of using OTRS to perform a detailed analysis of our painting line, we discovered that the coating unevenness was due to a poorly positioned gun, and this enabled us to achieve a major improvement effect. There is no way anyone could have seen this just by looking, so I was honestly surprised by the software's analytical power. In addition, when people develop habits or get used to doing things in a certain way, they sometimes end up unconsciously following different work procedures. However, I think the ability to check out how they work by watching OTRS videos can help them to reduce procedural mistakes.



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