Alan D. Whitfield

Operations Manager — Manufacturing & Supply Chain

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Operations manager with fourteen years in precision manufacturing, responsible for a 180-person plant running three shifts. Track record of lifting on-time delivery above 98 per cent, cutting scrap by a third and bringing two new production lines into service on schedule. Chartered member of the Institute of Operations Management; comfortable across lean methodology, ISO 9001 audit preparation and supplier negotiation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Operations Manager

March 2021 — Present

Ravenscroft Precision Ltd. — Sheffield, UK

- Own end-to-end production for a £42m plant: three shifts, 180 staff, six machining and assembly cells.
- Lifted on-time in-full delivery from 87 per cent to 98.4 per cent over eight quarters by rebuilding the finite-capacity schedule and introducing a daily constraint review.
- Cut scrap and rework from 4.1 per cent to 2.7 per cent of output, an annualised saving of £610,000, through operator-led SPC and a revised first-article inspection routine.
- Commissioned two new CNC lines from specification to steady-state production in eleven months, three weeks ahead of plan and within a £3.8m capital budget.
- Led the plant through ISO 9001:2015 recertification with zero major non-conformances in two consecutive audits.

Production Superintendent

June 2016 — February 2021

Halbrook Engineering Group — Rotherham, UK

- Ran the machining value stream — 60 operators, 22 machine tools — against weekly output and quality targets.
- Introduced standard work and shadow boards across all cells, reducing changeover time by 38 per cent.
- Renegotiated terms with the four largest raw-material suppliers, saving £270,000 a year without extending lead times.
- Reduced reportable safety incidents from nine a year to one by rewriting risk assessments and running a weekly floor-walk programme.

Continuous Improvement Engineer

September 2012 — May 2016

Halbrook Engineering Group — Rotherham, UK

- Delivered 24 kaizen events across two sites, releasing 1,900 square metres of floor space and £1.2m of working capital.
- Built the site's first shop-floor OEE reporting system and trained 40 team leaders in its daily use.

Graduate Manufacturing Engineer

August 2010 — August 2012

Northgate Components plc — Leeds, UK

- Completed a two-year rotational programme spanning process engineering, quality assurance and production planning.
- Designed fixtures and work instructions for a new automotive bracket line delivering 12,000 parts a week.

EDUCATION

MSc, Manufacturing Systems Engineering

2015 — 2017

University of Warwick, Coventry, UK

Distinction; dissertation on constraint scheduling in low-volume machining.

BEng (Hons), Mechanical Engineering 2007 — 2010
University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK
First Class Honours.

SKILLS

Operations: Lean manufacturing, Six Sigma (Green Belt), theory of constraints, capacity planning, S&OP, SMED, 5S, value-stream mapping

Quality & compliance: ISO 9001:2015, IATF 16949 awareness, APQP, PPAP, statistical process control, root-cause analysis (8D, Ishikawa)

Systems: SAP PP/MM, Microsoft Dynamics 365, Power BI, advanced Excel, MRP and finite-capacity scheduling tools

Leadership: Shift-team management, union consultation, supplier negotiation, budget ownership to £45m, coaching and appraisal

CERTIFICATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

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Chartered Member (MIOM) — *Institute of Operations Management* 2019

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt — *British Quality Foundation* 2015

NEBOSH General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety — *NEBOSH* 2014

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Manufacturing Excellence Award, Regional Engineering Federation, 2023, for the Ravenscroft line-commissioning programme.
- Speaker at the National Operations Forum 2024 on scheduling for high-mix, low-volume plants.
- Mentor on the company apprenticeship scheme; eleven apprentices supported to completion since 2018.

REFERENCES

Written references from current and previous employers are available on request.