

We recently had the pleasure of working with leading European wind turbine manufacturers Vestas.



Leading European Wind Turbine Manufacturer

One of our most recent projects was a multi-site contract for Vestas Nacelles A/S, based in Norway, Sweden and Germany. This contract was acquired through Triangle Manufacturing and Logistics Ltd, suppliers of Lean Six Sigma consultancy services.

Athenasis filled the 'Quality House' role of 'Quality IT' and worked closely with Triangle engineers and multiple departments within Vestas to deliver a multi-faceted improvement programme across Vestas' foundries. The foundries had previously been part of the external supply chain and had been acquired in order to enable improvements to take place. The challenge was to standardise production processes and the QDA software that supported them, to improve the production quality of casted wind turbine components.

At a practical level this involved working with Senior Management, Group IT, Local IT, Production operatives, Production Management, Quality Management, Foundry Technology, Process Excellence, Lean Six Sigma consultants and local Quality departments to understand and map current production processes, and also the existing IT services in each plant that supported the production process.

Parameters to be measured were clearly identified. The measurement points and the required accuracy of each parameter were also specified. The processes and parameters were then mapped into the SPC module of a package called QDA (<http://www.asidatamyte.com/en/industries-served/energy/>), and the modifications rolled out in the foundries where the package was already installed.

In foundries without QDA, the network and hardware infrastructure were designed to interface at the optimum contact points with the production floor with a view to QDA replacing legacy systems.

Particular focus was placed on integrating the input of data into the software with the natural work-flow of the operator for each sub-process. Bar-coding was also introduced wherever practical, to ensure data quality and to ensure the Lean Six Sigma engineers were supplied with clean data-sets.

Concept designs were developed for linking the PPAP/FMEA process to the software development process for new items. Controls were also put in place for software modification requests and version release – the aim being to maintain the maximum amount of flexibility for the user within the system, whilst simultaneously ensuring system and data integrity.

The outcome was a great success; objectives were met and great relationships formed!

Here is what they have to say about us

“We gave Sophie an assignment to drive some IT improvements in our plants. She quickly identified the challenges we faced in introducing these changes, and also the people they impacted on. Sophie’s communication skills and pragmatic but creative approach give her the ability to connect with people very easily, and at the same time build their trust and confidence thanks to the results she delivered, and her personal attention to them. Sophie has worked with us in a very structured way, has been very successful in introducing new ideas to our staff and has implemented the improvements we wanted. She is a great change driver and at the same time is a nice person to work with. It was real value added.”

*GUSTAVO SANTOS, SENIOR QUALITY SPECIALIST, VESTAS COPENHAGEN DENMARK
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