

*For people seriously committed to product  
and process improvement*

# Brief

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## The Power of Project Management

### Is there really power in project management?

Engineers, Production Managers, the Tooling Supervisor and the Manufacturing Vice President at Die-Tech are believers. "Project Management is our secret weapon," explains Russ Morgan, the Engineering Manager, who speaks for the group on this subject. Recently these Die-Tech employees attended a series of six sessions concerning project management techniques gleaned from experts in the field.

Morgan elaborates on the topic. "Project management is a powerful tool that is embraced by our employees throughout the company. It is the science of getting things done efficiently. By reducing project costs, we can price more competitively, and we pass on our savings to our customers."

Russ acknowledges that most Die-Tech employees work on projects as part of their daily routine. A project is described by Russ as any activity that has a distinct deliverable and a clear beginning and ending. He adds that there is interdependence between projects and processes. "Processes are activities that are done repeatedly. When a project follows a process, then there is opportunity to achieve greater performance. Cross functional teams which learn a common project management process have fewer time delays and conflicts."

Project management skills are applied to various projects at Die-Tech. They include but are not limited to developing

policies and procedures, producing stamping dies, solving problems and resolving safety issues. When asked to describe how project management skills have made a difference, Morgan is quick to cite examples.

Scrap from machines used to be collected in a bin. Machine operators had to shut down machines to empty the bin into a barrel. A project management team developed a vacuum system, which collects the scrap as it is produced. "By not shutting down machines, we are saving time. Our runs are much longer and we get the product to the customer faster," explains Morgan.

"By standardizing our die design and die build process, we are reducing the time it takes for us to fill a customer request. Industry standards are 8 – 15 weeks. We are turning around product from concept to delivery often within 4 weeks," states Morgan proudly.

What do your customers value? How can we help you improve your products' utility and reduce the time it takes to get your products to market? Perhaps it would make sense to give us a call.

*Share your ideas for Die-Tech product improvements and services with us by sending an e-mail to [ideabox@die-tech.com](mailto:ideabox@die-tech.com) and your name will be entered in our quarterly drawing for a gift certificate.*

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