

Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service

SMAS recommended by CB Technology

The challenge:

SMAS were brought in to develop a new planning system to allow resources to be more effectively allocated, and to improve workload management to cope with future expansion.

CB Technology was put in touch with SMAS through Scottish Enterprise. The company had been working with an SE mentor for several years, who recommended SMAS when issues with workload planning became evident.

SMAS began by carrying out a free manufacturing review to see what changes were required at CB Technology, which employs around 20 people.

The company:

Bob Muir, Director of CB Technology, has no hesitation in recommending SMAS to other businesses after his company was helped to manage their expanding workload more efficiently.

CB Technology was set up in 1999 by Bob Muir and Christine Blackwood, after both had been made redundant from their previous jobs. Since then the company, which manufactures, assembles and tests printed circuit board (PCB) technology, has experienced steady growth. They boast a wide variety of clients in the electronics, medical and oil and gas industries.

The company's turnover is expected to reach £1.8 million this year, growing to £2.5 million over the following 12 months. It is this growth that led the Livingston-based business to call in SMAS, as the systems used to manage their workload were insufficient to deal with the increased amount of work.

How SMAS helped:

SMAS ensured that weekly production meetings took place, so that every CB Technology employee could be sure about work commitments and the resources allocated to each task.



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Bob Muir, Director

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If you would like to find out how SMAS can help you or your business please contact us on 0845 607 8787 or visit our website <http://www.scottishmas.com>



Other effects of the work carried out by SMAS include:

- An effective planning system being developed.
- Staff being fully trained in the use of this system.
- The introduction of a system of tracking work from enquiry to delivery.
- An expected increase in productivity of 15 per cent.
- The weekly production schedule helping to maintain effective planning.
- Standard Operating Procedures being introduced.

The new planning system has greatly improved the flow of work, as Bob Muir explained: "Our previous approach was to accept work and then try to figure out how we could do it, but the business had got too big for that – you need to have an idea of the resources needed to complete work."

Outcomes:

The work by SMAS helped to improve planning at CB Technology. Introducing weekly production meetings ensures that the company will be able to plan for an increasing workload in the future. By making it easier to allocate resources, CB Technology can continue to meet the commitments to their customers.

This new strategy has helped safeguard jobs at the plant. "Efficiency is being able to figure out what you can deliver," added Bob.

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Find out how SMAS can help your business

Whatever kind of manufacturing help or support you're looking for, the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service can provide it professionally and quickly. Most of the time the support is free of charge.

SMAS will help you address any pressing issues, and will assist you in embedding continuous improvement practices into your business to ensure that the changes you make now will continue to provide a real business benefit in the future.

For more information, visit

www.scottishmas.com or

telephone 0845 607 8787.