

Cover Story

Staying home

How Delta Systems keeps jobs in the United States

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Delta Systems Inc. wants to maintain its manufacturing operations in the United States, and that's not just lip service.

The company and its president, Elizabeth Barry, are taking a number of strides to reach that goal.

Delta Systems is investing in its people. One of Delta's core values reads: "People are Delta's greatest asset. Every employee has the opportunity to learn, grow and to serve."

The sophistication of the manufacturing processes used to produce Delta Systems' products over the last five years has increased, so employees of the company have to be well-trained.

Automated manufacturing equipment and advanced electronics assembly equipment require new operator skills. Over the last several years, Delta has implemented in-house developed certification programs for production team members performing these skilled manufacturing jobs.

With a need to embrace industry standards established by the Institute for Printed Circuits, the company added an in-house IPC-certified instructor as well as the training and certification of the production team members involved in electronics assembly operations.

The company is also using lean transformation to keep the manufacturing of its products in the United States despite requests from customers to move to low-cost countries. One example of the lean initiative was through cellular manufacturing and single-piece flow. The equipment necessary to make a complete product was moved together to create product-specific work cells. Final assembly of the company's products is now performed in these product-specific cells removing all impediments to the flow of material from raw materials to a completed assembled product.

Delta also invested money in an 86,000-square-foot addition to its headquarters building in Streetsboro. The building expansion allowed for the consolidation of two manufacturing facilities into one building. The building was designed to be energy-efficient by incorporating skylights throughout the manufacturing plant and offices.

[Click here](#) to see Delta's SmartBusiness interview.

A dedicated electronics assembly space was incorporated featuring a high-tech flooring system that dissipates electrostatic charges and provided space for two new state-of-the-art surface mount technology lines. The facility was planned with enough space to accommodate the double-digit growth plans identified in the company's strategic plan.

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