

## ***Value Stream Mapping***

**Value Stream Mapping** is a technique used to analyze the flow on materials and information required to bringing a product or service from customer order to customer shipment. The process has been closely associated with LEAN and the TOYOTA Manufacturing System, the system said to have originated with the Japanese car manufacturer. It is also known as “Material and Information Flow Mapping.

Commonly used in a LEAN environment to identify opportunities for improvements in factory lead time, it usually results in minimizing three major components:

- Work-in-Process Inventory,
- Scrap, and
- Labor Costs associated with the production of the goods and services.

These value stream maps are usually drawn by hand in pencil to keep the mapping process as simple as possible and to allow for quick and simple corrections. The idea is to be able to draw the map quickly and without delay while observing the targeted process. This Snapshot view of your process, fully laid out before you on a single 11”x17” piece of paper or on a 4’x 8’ foot white board, quickly reveals why you have so much invested in inventory and why nothing seem to be delivered on time.

The lead time reduction process, through the use of value stream mapping, is generally a three step process:

- 1) The first step is the construction of the current state map; this mapping is a snapshot of the targeted process at an instant of time.
- 2) Step two is the construction of a future state map; a map of how the process could look if we were able to design the very best process possible.
- 3) The third step is the development of a plan for a series of changes to the process that will lead to the utopian process.

This workshop is designed to provide you with the tools needed to immediately begin your first Current and Future State maps. We will walk you through the processes for each map, step by step, providing for you a guided tour of the value stream mapping process. Coming away for the workshop, you will be able to start your own continuous improvement process toward a healthier, more profitable organization.