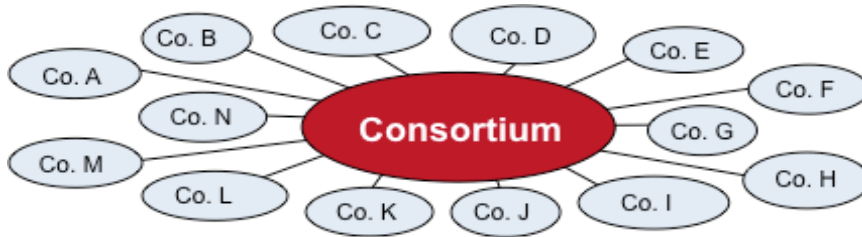


AME Lean Consortia

Learning Together How to Compete and Win.....Faster & More Effectively

Consortium: A structured group of non-competing organizations committed to improving performance through workforce engagement and aggressive, continuous improvement.



Companies collaborate on their Lean CI initiatives.

A goal is 100% workforce engagement in daily continuous improvement.

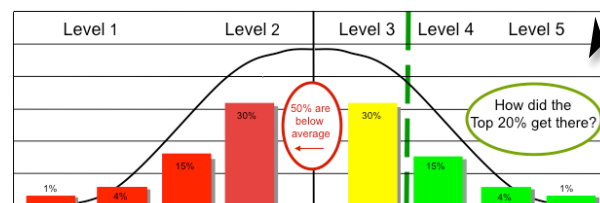
The primary Goal of a CONSORTIUM is to share ideas more deeply than people experience from attending workshops, conferences and programmed visits to other facilities. The interactions by participants in a consortium have more discipline and focus. Members share and receive practical ideas to move beyond simply using improvement tools, and instead identify better ways to improve the members' competitive positions. A key element is fully engaging the talents of the leadership and associates in each member company. They interact with their peers in the other companies to leverage collective resources, and thereby broaden and accelerate improvement efforts.

AME Lean Consortia have several advantages over other consortia:

- Linkages with and benchmarking with other AME consortia across North America.
- Online networking app that supports easy member-to-member collaborations between companies within the consortia network.
- Access to training and consulting resources within the AME community
- Cost-sharing for training resources between consortia and regional AME events

The benefits (quality, delivery, productivity, lower costs) from consortium collaboration enhance members' ability to sustain gains from improvement activities, engage the broader workforce and improve competitiveness – even during unstable economic conditions.

Members' Goal = Sustainable Top 20% Industry Position



Benefits to Consortium Members

- Shared best practices, shared knowledge, shared skill sets, shared training, and accelerated learning
- Improved bottom line by sharing kaizen/CI development costs
- Coached by seasoned practitioners acting as mentors and facilitators
- Intelligence about what is happening in global industries
- Identified "best practice" sites for benchmarking collaboration
- Website to optimize knowledge exchange within the Consortium
- Annual assessment provides improvement roadmap and benchmarking baseline

AME Consortia

<http://www.ame.org/consortia>

Consortium Functions

These require description because they are not common in most organizations. They are powerful supports for achieving the high workforce engagement rates and competitive strengths of industry-leader companies.

* = Basic Consortium Member activities. Others per member requests, as needed.

- **Lean CI Self-Assessment*** “If we don’t measure it, then we are unlikely to improve it.” (Deming) That is especially true of the elements of Lean Flow enterprises that have matured beyond the prevailing average business cultures. Consortium companies use an annual AME Lean Sensei self-assessment tool as a key input to the strategic plan, and hold each other accountable for achieving their planned improvements.
- **Consortium Board Meetings*** chart the group’s strategy and course ahead, and work the action plans along the way, including the actions listed below. Some are for all companies in the group. Others would be optional, depending on individual company needs. Some companies would have information from the Lean CI Assessment (above) as inputs to the strategic planning process. Board meetings are monthly or bi-monthly per group needs.
- **Member Site Tours*** happen with most board meetings as they rotate through the member company sites. The meeting host’s team usually selects an area of the plant for special attention, and expects the visitors to take a critical view of those operations to identify Pluses (+) they might “steal” and Opportunities (–) the host team can add to their CI efforts.
- **CI Round-Table Sessions*** are often used to surface new ideas from the whole group for an issue that a host company may be working on. The whole group learns from those sessions and the opportunities are left behind for the host’s CI teams.
- **Special Interest Groups** on almost any topic (5S, Leaders Standard Work, Supply Chain Management, S&OP Practices, Mixed-Model Production Optimization,...) can be requested by several companies currently working on major improvements to the working processes involved. Specialist resources may be shared by the companies involved.
- **Shared-Cost Learning Events** minimize the costs of training. For example, three of the companies may need to do Lean 101 training this month, but have 12 extra seats in the event. Those seats can be made available to other consortium companies or to the entire AME regional membership to reduce the per-seat costs to the three companies that commissioned the event. Events are tailored to needs.
- **Auditors' Exchanges** between the companies can be focused on several different Lean CI practices, depending on each company’s current development needs (e.g. 5S, Lean Process Design, Leaders Standard Work, Operators Standard Work, others...) An auditors exchange accomplishes several things: 1) Provides critical assessment of inside practices from outside eyes. Auditors are not allowed to wear rose-colored glasses and must leave behind specific recommendations for operations improvements. 2) Adds “pace” to on-going improvement efforts as the schedule for audit exchanges adds incentive to complete planned improvements sooner than otherwise expected. 3) Both groups (outside auditors and inside operators/leaders) learn from each other about ways to improve operations.

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