

# Milspec News

Quarterly Newsletter

Precision Innovation Reliability

OCTOBER 2011

## Dear Valued Clients,

As we come to the close of 2011, we would like to thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of our unique precision engineering business. As you know this year has been challenging for manufacturing worldwide with companies under enormous pressure to improve their efficiency and productivity.

We are proud to say that Milspec has emerged from this period a stronger, more efficient, higher skilled and more competitive

business. Not only have we maintained our entire 60-strong workforce but we have embraced a multi-skilled culture ensuring Milspec can provide the finest and most efficient services available to manage your niche engineering project.

As we approach the festive season, we wish you a merry Christmas, a happy and safe New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2012.

## LEAN AND LEADING THE WAY

In October, Milspec attended its second Association for Manufacturing Excellence Conference in Dallas, Texas, and also took part in a five-day tour of nine factories around Toronto's manufacturing belt. Our representatives, David and Wendy Cooper and Cindy Wyatt (who won her all expenses paid trip in an in-house competition) were inspired by some of the Lean journeys they shared but were very excited to realise Milspec is right on track.

*"A lot of companies talked the talk but didn't understand about the culture and their people. Lean is about building a culture and the capacity of your people. It takes a long time and you have to move at people's pace. It's not just about implementing lean tools. It really showed us the value of our site-wide training."*

– **Wendy Cooper, Commercial Director**

*"For us Milspec's success is not about becoming rich, famous or powerful, it's about seeing our company thrive."* – **David Cooper Managing Director**



The trio took part in a Kaizen event and value stream mapping (already in place at Milspec) that looked at production flow in a work area to highlight and minimise the 7 wastes.

It was an opportunity to work with their Canadian hosts, have some fun and implement change on the shop floor.



## TEAM AUSTRALIA

Milspec was very proud to be one of 18 Australian companies invited to be part of Team Australia for the Association for the United States Army Trade Show in Washington DC during October.

The three-day event provided a unique opportunity to present Milspec's capabilities, in particular the development of its new 450-amp alternator to Australian military leaders based in the US and the US Defence Materiel Organisation. This alternator remains unique in the market place and we look forward to its further development and application in the defence industries.

## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE NATIONAL FORUM

Two of Milspec's employees, Jim Cronin and Scott Gardiner, enjoyed attending this year's Operational Excellence National Forum in Melbourne. The pair attended numerous Lean workshops and brought back some valuable tools which have been applied in various sections of the company. One of those was Kamishibai, or the T-card system, which is a visual summary

of workplace progress. This has been applied in the Nulka production area, in electrical assembly as well as in administration.

*"While working with other company representatives during workshops it was really pleasing to see that Milspec is well advanced on its Lean journey and well ahead of many of its peers."*

– Jim Cronin, Sheet Metal Area Supervisor

## SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE

At Milspec our community is very important to us and we were thrilled to be part of the Border's 2011 Solar Car Challenge helping the students at Border Christian College with their entry. Wayne Good and Brad Hewitt donated their expertise to help students design and build their solar car over 10 weeks. We were fourth overall and we congratulate the College on taking out the Superior Craftmanship Award.



## CANCER COUNCIL'S RELAY FOR LIFE

Our staff harnessed their incredible motivation this year to raise an amazing \$11,415 for Cancer research. This was in excess of our goal of \$10,000 and an incredible effort for a small company such as ours. Our team, which finished fourth in the Border Relay, sought sponsors and braved wobbly legs and aching calves to walk for 24 hours as well as held other in-house fundraisers such as a raffle and Powerball to raise our fantastic donation. It is great to see that \$300,000 of the total money raised will be returned to the Border region to assist Cancer sufferers.

The Relay for Life is only one of 10 community events Milspec aims to support each year.

## MORE GRADUATES

Congratulations to our latest graduates of the Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing: Marla Mol, Ashley Abbott, Ashley Law, Owen Cooper, Daryl Clifford, Jake Adamiak, Frank Forelli and Tracey Mclvor. This year Milspec has strived to continually upskill our workforce ensuring we become increasingly flexible and competitive in the market place.

At Milspec the pursuit of excellence comes second to none. Feel free to call us anytime to discuss your project on **02 6022 7100** or visit our website.

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