



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain experts.

Operational Performance Improvement Newsletter

Strategies for Improving Business Performance

November, 2015

 Send to a Colleague

Welcome

As we close out the year, it can be good to take a step back and think about what went well this year to build on for next year, what makes sense to change, what to prepare for 2016 etc. It is also a great time to take time to recognize and appreciate your people, your customers, your suppliers etc. What a great opportunity to remember to say thank you and that you appreciate them!

This month, we are focused on improving and expanding utilization - of both capacity and ERP systems. These can provide some good tips to be thinking about as you prepare for 2016.

We'll be hosting a [Lean Enterprise Workshop](#) in Corona, CA on Saturdays starting on January 16th - a great opportunity to focus on 4 1/2 Saturdays to get up-to-speed on Lean and gain hands-on experience. We've had people walk away with ideas and projects that saved significant amounts of money and supported business growth. We are offering substantial discounts to groups of 3 or more.

Also, we are hosting the West Coast Student Case Competition on Feb 19-20th in Burbank. It is a FANTASTIC opportunity for university students to compete on manufacturing and distribution topics to gain new skills and to network with business professionals. Please refer your friends and colleagues to check it out - both as an attendee and as a competitor. For more information, click [here](#).

Happy Holidays from the ACA Group!

Improving ERP Utilization

By Doug Howardell, CPIM, PMP



A client recently contacted us at the ACA Group because they were not getting the results they had hoped for when they

implemented a new enterprise wide Enterprise Resource Planning system. How we helped them makes a good case study on how to improve ERP utilization that can be applied to any organization that is not getting the results they want from their systems or processes.

The client asked us to provide some basic ERP education to their planners and key members of their management team. This was an excellent start to improving their system utilization for two reasons. One, it ensured that everyone, managers and users, had the same understanding of how an ERP system is supposed to work. Two, it provided an opportunity to identify what was not working with their system and why.

We at the ACA Group have decades of experience helping executives make improvements to their ERP systems. Our experience has taught us that you start to improve system utilization by understanding the current state of affairs.

[Read the rest of the article](#)

Types of Capacity

By Lisa Anderson, MBA, CSCP

Capacity is a critical element for any business -

The ACA Group Partner Spotlight



LISA ANDERSON, MBA,
CSCP

LMA Consulting Group

Leading expert in selecting & implementing strategic priorities

Lisa Anderson is known for her unique ability to zero in on the critical strategic priorities and bridge the gap between strategy and execution to achieve dramatically improved service levels, accelerated cash flow and increased profits. [more](#)

Service Focus:

Supply Chain
Management

Deliver Bottom Line Results

and especially those interested in growth! A good place to start is to understand your capacity, which can mean different things to different people. The traditional definition relates to the total output you can expect from a machine, group of machines or facility. I view capacity as all of the following:



- 1. Machine** - if your machines were running 24/7, what is the output you would expect?
- 2. Machine staffing** - given your staffing levels, what is the output of your machines?
- 3. People** - what resources and skills do you have available?
- 4. Building** - what is your available space for manufacturing, warehousing, etc.?
- 5. Warehouse** - what is your available storage capacity for your products?
- 6. Tools/fixtures** - what is the available capacity of your tools and fixtures?
- 7. Shipping & receiving** - what is your available capacity in terms of shipping and receiving?
- 8. Transportation** - what is the available capacity of your trucks/transportation partners?
- 9. Supplier** - what is your supplier's available capacity?

[Read the rest of the article](#)

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Our view of the supply chain is from our supplier's supplier to our customer's customer inclusive of all elements in-between. It's no wonder executives are turning to their supply chain leaders to find out how to:

- Compress lead times
- Elevate service and delight customers
- Improve margins & profitability
- Accelerate cash flow
- Increase productivity and profitability

We partner with our clients to achieve results and align sourcing with business objectives!

Learn more about our supply chain services [here](#).

The ACA Group:

Additional Resources

Access [The ACA Group](#) library of materials on [Enterprise Resource Planning](#), [Organizational Development](#), [Lean Enterprise](#) and [Supply Chain Management](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lean Enterprise Workshop

January 16, 2016
8:00AM - 4:00PM (4 1/2 Saturdays)
Register

APICS West Coast Student Case Competition
February 19-20, 2016
For More Info



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain management experts who partner with organizations to improve business performance



The ACA Group

<http://www.theacagroup.com/>

2120 Highland Oaks Drive
Arcadia, CA 91006

STAY IN TOUCH



626-836-9261