

PROJECT BRIEFING

SUPPLY CHAIN



B. Braun manufactures medical devices such as needles, catheters, and valves. These devices are sold individually or in kits for a variety of medical procedures.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To optimize the supply chain process for B. Braun's Allentown facility.

PROJECT SUMMARY

ESPI initially partnered with B. Braun to develop a standard supply chain process for B. Braun's five Pennsylvania facilities. The ESPI team charted out B. Braun's business processes for the five facilities and looked for commonalities and best practices. Ultimately, B. Braun determined that each facility needed to have its own supply chain process, so ESPI was charged with improving the supply chain process at the Allentown facility.





The team began by performing a closer examination of the Allentown facility's business processes and identified value-added and non-value-added time. From there, the ESPI and B. Braun team chose pilot areas within the organization to begin supply chain improvements.

Thermoforming was selected as the area to begin analysis. Under B. Braun's current supply chain process, they were carrying a lot of extra inventory. The ESPI team identified Thermoforming's demand with the goal of setting up a supply chain that closely matched that demand.

The team analyzed process flows in Thermoforming, gathered data from all of their buyers, and established supply chain Kanbans, Kanban quantities and re-order points. They also engaged one of B. Braun's major suppliers in discussions about how the supply chain would be structured.

As a result, B. Braun was able to significantly reduce their warehouse space and inventory.

RESULTS

-  Reduced warehouse space by 50%.
-  Reduced inventory by \$500,000.
-  Established supply chain Kanbans, Kanban quantities and re-order points for supply chain process.
-  Provided B. Braun with knowledge to continue supply chain improvements throughout all areas of the organization.

