

PROJECT BRIEFING

OPERATIONAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Eastern Exterior Wall Systems designs, manufactures and installs a wide variety of prefabricated, panelized exterior wall systems for new construction and renovation. They work closely with architects, building owners and construction managers to create durable and aesthetically pleasing facades for buildings.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To improve manufacturing practices in existing facilities and identify opportunities for future improvements.

To create a conceptual layout of a new facility to consolidate three existing facilities.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Through observations, studies and meetings with Eastern Exterior Wall, the ESPI team identified potential improvement areas, and Eastern Exterior Wall's management and personnel prioritized these so that the most pressing and promising issues were focused on.




After observing the manufacturing practices at the two Lehigh Valley facilities, the ESPI team made several recommendations. First, they suggested that Eastern Exterior Wall consolidate storage areas and create designated storage locations for hardware to help organize their scattered materials. Second, the team examined the feasibility of automating the process of mixing and pouring concrete onto panels. Third, they looked at procuring equipment that would make it possible for Eastern Exterior Wall to produce metal studs in-house instead of purchasing them from an outside supplier.

Eastern Exterior Wall also wanted to create a more flexible environment when they moved to a new facility that would allow them to manufacture panels in more than one workspace. The ESPI team developed an overall concept and workflow layout that would accomplish those goals in a new facility.

"This work has been a good first step in planning our new facility. Due to the development efforts of the [project team] members, the foundation has been laid that will allow us to continue our preparation for the successful construction and use of our new facility."

General Manager of Production
Eastern Exterior Wall Systems Inc.

RESULTS

-  Provided specific recommendations for short term and long term improvements in all areas of their current facility.
-  Developed workflow layout for the new facility.
-  Conducted Return on Investment analysis for purchase of proposed equipment.

