

CASE STUDY - MONTANA SOLAR - LEAN MANUFACTURING



Zero
inventory

38 min
takt time

“Lean manufacturing is impossible without good data.” Travis Jordan

MT Solar is using Prodsmart to...

- Make their production tracking digital and cloud-based;
- Run a lean manufacturing environment;
- Improve production processes;
- Standardize best practices;
- Establish a precise and sustainable takt time;
- Automate reporting and documentation

Steel manufacturer MT Solar has stopped building inventory. Today they manufacture to order, just in time, and at high velocity. MT Solar make steel structures for solar panels. This may sound straightforward, but it's actually highly complex: their pre-made designs come in several thousand variations, with each kit containing a unique combination of the roughly one hundred different pieces they make. Today, they run a lean shop where each variant is made to order - but that wasn't always the case.

Having worked with Prodsmart for several years now, MT Solar has seen its impact on the entire production:

“I'm not going to lie, it touches everything we do. Working with Prodsmart has been a pervasive change that, for some people, took some getting used to. We've been able to time our processes and really understand how long things take. That helped us stop building inventory altogether. Today we cut the steel and then put it together in a kit. And we're doing that 14 times a day, at a 38 minute takt time. We have raw materials at the back of the shop, and everything that's going through the shop is allocated to an order. That's a lot of pretty precise timing.”



“When your lean setup is running well, it looks a bit like magic.”