

Chisholm

Prototyping Centre supports industry

As part of a restructuring process, the Chisholm Institute of Tafe, Dandenong, Victoria, has established a CNC Prototyping Centre to assist small to medium sized engineering enterprises with prototyping and development of designs and concepts.

“We have the capability to help people,” says Noel Sutcliffe, Manager, Manufacturing, Engineering & Logistics. “We’re here to provide a service that others can’t provide. We have a rapid response to companies Rapid Prototyping problems and can turn work around and provide solutions very quickly and inexpensively.”

The centre is equipped with the latest technology including a Dimension Rapid Prototyper and a Fanuc 4-axis Robocut wire cut machine. They also have three Okuma machines, a VR 4011 vertical machining centre, an LCS 15E 2-axis CNC lathe and an MU 400VA 5-axis verti-



Samual Pop (left), CNC Prototyping Centre Technician, and Noel Sutcliffe, Manager, Manufacturing, Engineering & Logistics, Chisholm Institute of Tafe, with a display of complex parts.

Photo: Keith Watts

cal machining centre. In addition, there is a Sheffield Discovery II CMM and a Creator CR-6C EDM sinker machine.

Chisholm provides local industry with a range of services which includes rapid prototyping, CNC turning, 5-axis and 3-axis CNC milling, CMM measuring and 4-axis wire cutting.

The centre staff is headed up by highly qualified Samuel Pop, CNC Technician, who joined them late last year. Samuel won a number of state and national engineering competitions which ultimately led him to being employed by Chisholm Institute. In fact, the CNC Prototyping Centre has a strong focus on linking students with industry.

“There’s a perception out there that Tafe’s either have old machines or they don’t have the expertise to get the best out of them,” says Mr Sutcliffe. “We will dispel that way of thinking.”

The Improve Group

OneSteel completes competitive manufacturing project

OneSteel’s Australian Tube Mill in Acacia Ridge in Brisbane has recently completed its first improvement project as part of the nationally recognised qualification of “Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing” delivered by Excellence Coach Peter McGregor of The Improve Group.

Australian Tube Mills are manufacturers of structural steel hollow sections and DuraGal profiles. Steel pipes, tubes and other products produced to strict Australian standards for the Australian, New Zealand, South Pacific and South East Asian markets and are manufactured at their Australian facilities in Brisbane, Newcastle and Melbourne.

The focus of the competitive manufacturing project was the improvement of ‘quick changeover’ times across five different mill processes. The changeover of mill components for different steel tube products can take between 30 minutes and four hours. Australian Tube Mills saw enormous value in undertaking the Quick Changeover training to improve their processes and recover any lost downtime that occurred during their ten-ton-per-hour steel production process. Australian Tube Mills’ results were better than expected. They were able to demonstrate that a 50% reduction of changeover time was easily achieved by the new processes – an enormous saving in all areas.

With this success story, continuous improvement in changeover practices is now a key business objective of all mill teams at Australian Tube Mills, with some already setting a target of ‘world class’ by achieving SMED standards of less than 10 minutes for the changeover.

The Improve Group provides world-class improvement services such as those provided successfully to Australian Tube Mills. They include government funded programs in both Australian and New Zealand for Competitive Manufacturing, Manufacturing Technology Training, Lean Manufacturing Implementation Support, Lean Supply Chain Implementation Support, Total Productive Maintenance, and more. For more information visit www.improvegroup.com.au.



Australian Tube Mill, Brisbane, achieved a 50% reduction of changeover time for their mill processes with help from the Improve Group’s competitive manufacturing training program.

Photo: Improve Group