



P-Glossary



Lean Production System

Lean is about doing more with less, i.e., less time, inventory, space, labor, and money. The Lean Production System or Lean manufacturing is primarily based on the concept of Lean. The driving force of Lean Production System is the continuing shift of the market from supply driven market led by producers to demand driven market led by the consumers. This paramount shift forced the business to be more flexible to meet the diverse and fast changing demands of the consumers and at the same time to be remained competitive in the market. The main source of Lean Production System is The Toyota Production System (TPS), which was developed by the Toyota Motor Company after the Second World War. In the 1980's as western executives began taking note of Toyota's success, academia also begun studying and writing about the benefits of this seemingly revolutionary production system. Two of these academics were James P. Womack of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Daniel T. Jones of the University of Cardiff in Wales. It is these authors who are widely credited for coining the term "lean manufacturing" to describe the Toyota Production System to westerners.

In essence, the terms "Toyota Production System" and "Lean Production System " mean the same thing and can be used interchangeably.

See also: 5S or Good Housekeeping; Kaizen; Toyota Production System
