
Testimonials

July 2010 - Kaizen

Aster delivered a two day Kaizen introduction training course for Ultra Electronics. Testimonials received following the course included:

"Excellent, down to earth, practical, useful", Nigel Davis, Marketing Manager.

"The course was very educational and very useful to me", A. Oxbrow, Team Leader.

"Interesting and useful, the business will benefit greatly if this is implemented", Mark Craster, Marketing Support.

"I was surprised I was selected to attend this training as I have already covered Kaizen in my level 6 graduate diploma in Purchasing & Supply course but I found this course very good", Marsha Rafael, Senior Buyer.

July 2010 - Business Improvement

Aster delivered a two day training course on business development techniques for Oxford Instruments. Testimonials received following the course included:

"Well presented and very informative", Tony Lawrence.

July 2010 - Introduction to Purchasing

Aster trained a number of the sales team of a leading electronic test equipment manufacturer in how buyers work so that they could get a better understanding of their counterparts. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"The course was presented in a clear and precise way that was easy to understand", David Feltbower, Sales Engineer.

"Excellent", Ken Collins, Sales Representative.

"Very relaxed and very informative", Louise O'Donnell, Account Manager.

"The time passed quickly - always a good sign", Nick Ward.

"Extremely useful, great eye opener". Andrew Bremner, Application Engineer.

"There are others at our company who would benefit from this course, please e-mail me", Carl Garrood, Sales Manager.

"The day went very quickly, this is always the sign of a good course. Paul had a lot of experience in industry so it was valuable learning from this", Lindsay Harris, Account Manager.

June 2010 - Failure Mode Effects Analysis (FMEA)

Aster delivered a one day FMEA course for a defence contractor in June 2010. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"An excellent and lucid introduction to the uses and benefits of FMEA", Dave Smith.

"Good use of Humour", Helen Swygart.

"I found the course to be very informative and fully satisfied my expectations", Andrew Bellerby.

"The right balance of theory and practical exercises, relaxed training approach - excellent trainer. Very enjoyable and

useful course", Graham Roberts.

"Very good and knowledgeable instructor. Very relaxed", Simon Game.

"Good atmosphere and team working", Jason Botterill.

"The course was very informative and interesting", Helen Clayton-Marshall.

June 2010 - Zero Quality Control & Poka Yoke

Aster delivered two one day ZQC and Poka Yoke training course courses for staff at Flaktwoods. Testimonials received following the course included:

"The practical examples used were good for applying knowledge", Adam Clark, Quality Apprentice.

"Good to have practical as well as theory", Ian Atkin, Manufacturing Engineer.

"Relaxed and fun learning the key concepts to Poka Yoke", A. Hubbard, Manufacturing Engineer.

"Great Course, fun and informative, perfect combination", Simon Game, Engineering Supervisor.

"Good course, a good balance between theory, examples and practical", C. Mousley, QA Engineer.

"Good presentation made at the right pace", Iain Kinghorn, Technical Manager.

"A good mix of theory and practice", Roger Smith, Maintenance Manager.

"Very informative and thought provoking", Dave Sawkins, Manufacturing Engineer.

"Very enjoyable", Steve Marchant, Production Engineer.

"Presentation of course was excellent and enjoyable", Matthew Waylen, Designer.

June 2010 - Introduction to Lean Manufacturing

Aster delivered a two day Introduction to Lean Manufacturing course at its training centre in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Very thought provoking, delivered by Paul in an obviously knowledgeable, engaging and appropriate manner. Really enjoyed the two days, great delivery of key topics", Peter Ruddy, Operations Manager, ACO Technologies.

"I found the course very informative and contained many useful aspects that I am certain can be used within our organisation. Can't wait to get started". Dave Trevis, Senior Production Engineer, McMurdo Ltd.

"A good clear understanding. Very good activities. Communication to the group was very good. Phil Butts, Production Team Manager, ACO Technologies.

"Very enjoyable course.- gives detail to all the key terms e.g. Kaizen, 5S etc, John Till, McMurdo Ltd.

May 2010 - Single Minute Exchange of Dies (SMED)

Aster delivered a one day SMED course at its training facility in Milton Keynes in May 2010. Testimonials received

following the course included:-

"The course was presented in a very professional manner", Alan Ross, Dupont Teijin Films

"The course is ideal for introducing individuals into the SMED ways of working", David Robertson, Asset Integrity Manager.

"I wouldn't change anything about the course", Stephen Smith, Team Leader, Coca Cola Enterprises.

May 2010 - Problem Solving Skills

Aster delivered a problem solving skills training course for Matthew Brand Solutions in May 2010. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"I really enjoyed it and I think this course will help me in my future career". AW, CSE.

"I have enjoyed the course, it makes you think differently. Live in the Solution, not the Problem", Louise Joell, CSE.

"Good Fun and informative", Dean Darby, Print Team Manager.

April 2010 - Lean Leadership

Aster developed a bespoke two day course for ARJO Huntleigh on specific topics of Lean Leadership and Kaizen introduction. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Very good, Paul presents courses very well", Lisa Eveleigh, Process Development Engineer.

"The course was made bespoke to cover specific topics to our requirements", Paul Fuller, Process Development Engineer.

April 2010 - 5S Training

Aster delivered a 5S training course for Nu-Swift Engineering on their site in Elland. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"The course was very good, it put a new light on work at Nuswift", Robbie Jones (Production).

"Very well explained and interactive course", John Rye, Supervisor.

"Enjoyed it thoroughly, learnt new words and the meaning of which in turn helped me understand the course better. The course was delivered in a way that I both enjoyed and understood", Gary Hickingbotham (Production).

"Good use of practical and visual presentation", Dan Whiting, Stock Control Supervisor.

"Very good course", Steven Hollas, Storeman.

March 2010 - Lean Manufacturing

Aster delivered a Lean Manufacturing training course in March 2010 at its training facility in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"The course was well balanced between the theory and the trainers own personal practical experience", Kenton Bew, Business Improvement Manager, Harting.

"Enjoyed the practical aspect of the course", Richard Giddings, Production Control, Harting.

"The course was good and it was also presented well. I gained a lot of knowledge from the course", Derek Skinner, Production Manager, Biomar Ltd.

"Everything was explained and it was a good course to attend", David Johnston", Technician, Biomar Ltd.

March 2010 - Value Stream Mapping (VSM) Aster delivered a one day VSM training course in Milton Keynes in March 2010. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Awesome, well presented and fun", Andrew Cook, Manufacturing Senior Cell Leader. February 2010 - Lean Office Aster delivered a one day lean office course in Milton Keynes on 23rd February 2010. Testimonials received following the course included:- "This was a good one day course which gave a sound foundation on this management/business principle/technique, Stuart Carruthers, Royal Yachting Association. "The practical knowledge of the trainer was excellent meaning live examples of the application of lean principles were possible". David Armory, Director, World Class Group. February 2010 - 5S & 7 Wastes Aster delivered a one day 5S & 7 Wastes training course in Milton Keynes on 22nd February 2010. Testimonials received following the course included:- "The practical element was important to help understand and demonstrate the techniques. Paul knew his subject well and clearly explained it", Lee Holloway, Production Manager, Icore International Ltd. "A very beneficial course that will help me to use these tools effectively in my unit and make improvements", Zafar Iqbal, Power Contract Team Leader. "Time passed quickly, good mixture of slides and practical", RWG Lavelle, Superintendent Planner, BIS-IS. February 2010 - Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) Aster delivered a one day TPM course for employees of Martin Baker Aircraft Co. Ltd in February 2010. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Friendly, interesting, opened my mind to other ways of looking at problems", Andrew Cook, Manufacturing Senior Cell Leader. "Good discussion points and advice", Fabienne Couaillac, Continuous Improvement Engineer. December 2009 - Feedback after Implementation Hello Paul, I participated in one of your team leader training courses in June this year that was undertaken by your consultant Alex Gallon. I wanted to let you know that since this course, I have been working towards NVQ level 3 in Business Administration and have done further tests with the self diagnostic tool as part of my key skills project. I rolled out Aster Training's diagnostic tool to my team and they completed the questionnaires as an assessment on me as their Team leader rather than an assessment of themselves. My findings supported the diagnostic tool, as they were the same as my own self assessment. This confirms to me that the managerial style grid and questionnaire are an accurate means of determining a person's management style. I really enjoyed doing this project and I have Aster Training to thank for that. Best regards Louise Daker

MARS Production Team Leader Matthews Brand Solutions

December 2009 - Lean training for the NHS Aster delivered a two day Lean training course for Gloucester NHS in early December 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Extremely good two days. Very informative. Gave me confidence to take back and implement in workplace". Karen Taylor- Project Support Officer. "Paul is an extremely good trainer who listens to the needs of the group and adapts accordingly. Very relaxed and friendly manner", Linnet Hooper, PA to Associate Director Public Health. "Very much enjoyed the course. Paul was knowledgeable, lucid and engaging", David Smith, Assistant Business Manager. "A pleasant change to leave a course feeling energised and keen to begin implementing what we have learnt", Richard Thorn, Executive Assistant. "Very enjoyable - Good interaction, engaging, thought provoking", Gill Brett. "A clear understanding programme introducing the subject and stimulating debate. A positive feeling at the end". Louise Scriven. "The course was well presented and paced. It provided opportunity to think about the concepts in a thoughtful and constructively challenging setting", Ruth Thomas, Assistant Director. "A good course, well presented", Sheila Dwyer-Richmond, Team Sec Strategy Development. November 2009 - First Aid Training Aster delivered a one day First Aid Course for the Ridgeway Partnership in Witney in November 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "In 30 years I have never enjoyed a first aid course so much and learnt so much in 6 hours". "Very enjoyable and informative". "The tutor made the course interesting and fun". "It was the best first aid course I have ever done". "This was a very well presented course". "The trainer was great". November 2009 - Appraisal Skills Aster delivered a one day appraisal skills course for Birmingham Hippodrome in November 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "I enjoyed the course and have many ideas on how I would like our appraisal system to work, thanks to the advice and tips from the trainer", Danielle Martin, Event Manager. "Alex is an excellent trainer and illustrates the subject clearly. I got more from the day than I could have anticipated", Hannah Hallam, Development Manager. "Would be an excellent course to be used to help prepare for appraisals for the first time", Marie Miles, Deputy Sales Manager. "Really useful - I felt more confident to carry out this now with me staff", Jenny Ellis, Senior Customer Services Manager. "Highly recommended. I now feel more comfortable to give a fair appraisal", Many Rose. "Excellent, Teval Mistry, Restuarant & Bars Manager. October 2009 - How to Implement Lean Manufacturing Aster delivered a three day How to Implement lean Manufacturing Course for TSI Instruments in October 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Great Course, very well presented", Ian Anderson, Factory Maintenance Engineer. "Educational but also fun", Kevin Downes, Production Engineer. "Excellent well thought out course, interactive with good examples to back up content", Brain Blackburn, Operations Director. "The course was informative and very

interesting. Paul was very good in making you rethink the way we were conducting business", Graham Pitcher, Production Manager. "Thoroughly enjoyable and well structured course", John Bailey, Quality and Purchasing Manager. October 2009 - Team Member to Team Leader One of the most difficult things to do for a person recently promoted within an organisation is to supervise people who had recently been within their own peer group. Aster provides a training course for just such a situation. Aster delivered a Team Member to Team Leader course in Milton Keynes on 19th October 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Excellent Course. Very relevant to my position. I now have lots of practical advice I can take away with me back to my job", Mark Steel, Information & Sales Supervisor, Birmingham Hippodrome. "The course was very informative and also productive. I have ended the day with plans for the future and ways to improve my team", Ali Smith, Operational Process Team Leader, Shanks Waste Management. September 2009 - 5S Training Aster delivered the fourth of a set of five 5S training courses for Graphic Packaging. In total, we have now trained nearly 20% of the workforce for this 24/7 operation. Testimonials received following the course included:- "I now fully understand the concept of 5S and would be willing to help spread the idea across the workforce", Paul Rubel, Forklift Driver. August 2009 - Basic Supervisory Skills Aster delivered a two day Basic Supervisory Skills course on site for the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre in August 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "The course content was excellent and no improvement is necessary", Ian Wallace, Technician. "Thoroughly informative", Jim Worrall, Technician. "The course has opened my eyes to how I have been mis-managed over the years", Alex Duggan, Technician. "Really good skills, very useful", Hannah Evans, C&E Supervisor. August 2009 - Introduction to Marketing Aster delivered a one day Introduction to Marketing course at its training facility in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:- "A welcoming, intense, easy going, informal master class in marketing. Thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks", Brennan Hayden, Marketing Executive, Orient Express. "Very informative, a great overview of marketing", Danielle Martin, Event Manager, Birmingham Hippodrome. "Very useful as an overview. Lots of action points to take back to work", Karin Weaver, Business & Employee Development Manager, Surface Technology International Ltd. August 2009 - Team Building Aster delivered a series of three team building courses for MBS throughout the month of August 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Clear and well presented. I had a fun, informative day". Gary Craven, Project Co-ordinator. "Really good. Found out a lot about other people I am working with and their skills", Vilma, Studio Operator. "Informal, good mixture of education and learning", Alex Murphy, Quality Controller. "Very good, interesting", Adam Barrass, Repro Operator. "A good mix of fun and education", Steven Emsley. "A well prepared course with good presentation and supporting documentation", Ian Berriman, Project Manager. "Fun and intuitive, recommended", Richard Brear, Studio Operator. "Extremely informative, gives you a lot to think about", Stephen Norris, Mobius Operator. "Thought Provoking, interesting self-assessment", Abigail Dorman. "Enjoyable day, thanks", Claire Muir, Re-toucher. "Very interesting and a good old laugh", Dean Leister, Artworker. "A very enjoyable and interesting course", Maureen Hill, QC Operator. "The tasks were enjoyable and revealing", Ian Napier, Studio Operator. "Inventive exercises helped illustrate the effectiveness of the course", Sarah Ledson, Project Manager. July 2009 - Practical Problem Solving Aster delivered an on site problem solving skills course for Matthew Brand Solutions in July 09. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Very interesting, quick moving, never got slow and boring", Lee Brummitt, Team Leader. "Very informative and useful - the practical portions of the course were particularly effective", Mike Bard, Pharma Business Unit Manager. "Very open and interactive", Sara Daniel, Account Manager. "Relaxed, fun and informal and covered a lot in a small space of time", Martin Petty, Project Manager. July 2009 - Time Management Aster delivered an on site Time Management course for Birmingham Hippodrome in July 09. Testimonials received following the course included:- "The course was very effective", Ben Magson, Systems Administrator. "Very comprehensive and useful", Sarah Coelho, Administration Assistant. "A well organised day with interactive tasks. It was a comfortable atmosphere and brought the best out of the group", Ben Castle, Sales Co-ordinator. June 2009 - Team Leader Skills Aster delivered an on site Team Leader training course for Matthew Brand Solutions in June 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "I wouldn't change the course, Alex was very clear, precise, descriptive and engaging. Very interesting, maybe a little more in the folder for future reference", Lee Brummitt, Team Leader. "Alex explained things very well and required us to participate in the training", Louise Daker, Production Co-ordinator. June 2009 - 5S & 7 Wastes Training

Aster delivered an on site 5S & 7 Wastes course for the specialist chemical company, Chemertall in June 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:

"The plug exercise was very good, it demonstrated 5S and the 7 Wastes very well", Elaine Turner, Assistant Accountant.

"No need to improve the course, it was spot on", Andrew Roullier, Microanalyst. June 2009 - Introduction to Lean Manufacturing Aster delivered an on site Introduction to Lean Manufacturing course for ARJO Huntleigh's Lean Team in Luton in early June 2009. Testimonials received following the course included: "I was totally satisfied with the course and the trainer., contents and presentation. The course was very interesting and useful to me. Also the hand out folder and slides were very useful. Very pleased, Thank You Paul", Lisa Eveleigh, Process Development Engineer, ARJO Huntleigh. "Things were explained in an easy to understand way", Paul Fuller, Process Development Engineer, ARJO Huntleigh. May 2009 - 5S & 7 Wastes Aster delivered two one day 5S training courses on site for Graphic Packaging in May 2009. Testimonials received following the courses include:- "The course was enjoyable and was an eye-opener. Hopefully management will follow through", Kevin Gooch, Technical. "Covered the subject well, looking forward to implementation", S. Hicks, Pre-Press. "I enjoyed it because it opened up my eyes to what I work with and showed me what things have been missed", Greg Cooksley, Flat Packing. "Very Good", D Watts, Material Handler. May 2009 - Problem Solving Skills Aster delivered an on site problem solving skills course for the London Borough of Tower

Hamlets. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Good Overall course on the DMAIC process", Chris Mousley, QA Engineer. "Enjoyed the course. The trainer was very patient with the delegates", Danny Mulpoy. May 2009 - 5S in the Office Aster delivered a 5S training programme for Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust in May 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:- "I felt the course delivered a clear message", Alan Hoskins, Director of Procurement. "Good content, well delivered and explained with real life examples that all could relate to", Jackie Pomeroy, Deputy Supply Chain Manager. "Excellent course and trainer. It kept my interest all day", E. Vials, Senior R & D Coordinator. "Paul has a good style, easy to listen to and apply what was being said to real life", Sara Pearce, Procurement Manager. "Very enjoyable, excellent knowledge demonstrated by tutor", Billy Allen, Procurement Manager. "The course was well structured and very relevant to our particular department", John Heehnan, Operational & Supply Chain Manager. April 2009 - Six Sigma Yellow Belt Aster completed a one day six sigma yellow belt course for Graphic Packaging in Bristol. Feedback received following the course included: "It's a must do", Alan Sullivan. "Delivered in clear, concise terms and at the right pace", Mark Healey. "Learned a lot more about finding out how things work", Steve Box. "The course was very good, the group interaction and working together was helpful", Dave Shaw. "Very good presentation and material", Martin Johnson. "Very well presented", Tony Cockle. April 2009 - 5S & 7 Wastes Aster delivered two one day training courses for Graphic Packaging in Bristol at the beginning of April 09. Testimonials received following the course included:- "Good well formed, easily understood programme", Sue Alsop, Warehouse Manager. "Well planned day - enjoyed and can't see how anyone would disagree with anything", Alan Spring, Shift Manager. "Simple to follow and understand", Ian Jefferies, Dispatch Leading Hand. "Good, informative course. Good combination of theory and practical, bookwork and presentation", J. Noyes, Print apprentice. "The course was explained in a friendly manner and the concept was understood very clearly", Brian Pitt, Print Assistant. "Found it very interesting and educational, it would be pleasurable to see it work within our company", Ashley Brown, Print. "The presentation was explained in both technical and laymans terms which made it easy to understand", T.P. Tavener, Printer. "It was very good and definitely worth doing", Chris Bailey, Load Turner. "Very well put over and the trainer kept it interesting", Vinny Morgan, Load Turner. March 2009 - 5S & 7 Wastes Following an earlier course on 5S with Northside Truck & Van Ltd (Mercedes) Aster was invited back to carry out an additional one day 5S training course on site in Yorkshire to be attended by a number of representatives from the group dealerships. Testimonials received following the course included: "Excellent course, covered the content fully in all areas, would recommend for all businesses", Adrian Cade, General Manager, Doncaster. "Very thorough, interaction very good", Scott Woolston, Group Sales Manager, Truck. "Excellent", Steve Cusworth, General Manager. "Course was good", Ben Sowersby, Group Sales Manager. "Every business should be run under the principles of 5s", Tim Ward, Managing Director, Northside Truck & Van Ltd. "Really enjoyed the course. It was lots of fun and definitely worthwhile doing if you are passionate about 5S. Jason Moffatt, Assistant After Sales Manager, Leeds. "Learning and teaching style was very informative. Enjoyed it", Gavin Goode, Parts Manager. "Good communication and interaction between the group and trainer", Steve Revitt, Workshop Controller. March 2009 - 5S & 7 Wastes Hayward Tyler the Luton based designer and manufacturer of fluid filled electric motors and pumps engaged Aster to deliver a one day 5S training course for its staff in March 09. Testimonials received following the course included: "Dispelled some of the myths of 5S and 7 Wastes", Steve Whiteside, Skilled Machinist. March 2009 - Practical Problem Solving Skills Aster delivered a one day problem solving skills course for The InTouch Group at their design studios at the Barbican in London. Testimonials received following the course included: "I thought that the course would be boring, but because the trainer made everything relevant to our company and addressed current problems I found it very interesting. I think it put everyone in a positive mood about solving problems in the future", Allison Gray, Quality Operator, Intouch. "Paul's presentation style puts you at ease and allows you to work at your own problems", Gary Prowle, Site Manager, Intouch. "I found the course to be very beneficial. Good way of solving problems and working together to come up with a more efficient & effective way for the process to work. Because we had already completed a lot of areas to obtain data I found it helped resolve and suggest ways of improving these areas", Julie Sherar, Account Manager, Intouch. "The course was extremely informative and I highly recommend it to any business looking to improve on quality, Greg Rawles, Artworker, Intouch. "Extremely well presented", Aaron Cowan, Senior Artworker, Intouch. "Very lively and interesting. The tutor was knowledgeable of the company's core function, articulate, really enjoyed the course", Helen Kawagama, QC, Intouch. March 2009 - Lean Office - McBride Aster provided a one day Lean Office course for the staff at McBride in Burnley on 9th March 2009. McBride is an established international company, with significant manufacturing operations throughout Europe specialising in private label and contract manufacturing of laundry, household cleaning and personal care products. McBride carried out their own reaction summary following the course and their results are highlighted below. Delegates were asked to rate the training on a scale of 1-4 (1 being poor and 4 being excellent) in the below areas. The averages, lowest and highest rating are reported:

Area	Average	Lowest	Highest
Achievement of your training objectives	3.33	3	4
Presentation style	3.67	3	4
Presenter's knowledge	4.00	4	4
Learning points	3.56	3	4
Content	3.33	3	4
Timings	3.67	3	4
Relevance of training to you	3.67	2	4
Overall Rating	3.56	3	4

Delegates were then asked a series of questions requiring fuller, open, answers. Responses were as follows: Question Responses What was the most useful aspect of the training event to you? How will this help you in your job role?

- 5S, 7 wastes. They will help make the office a leaner place to work
- Helped me to clarify the stages and expected results from each stage
- Explaining the 5Ss. I will be able with help to implement this in the offices
- A good refresher on most points
- Linking 5S and VSM
- Process mapping – will be useful in streamlining procedures
- 7 wastes – highlighted lots of areas for improvement in the office environment

- Understanding 7/8 wastes associated with Lean, seeing how those can greatly affect lean and also how in practical ways these can be minimised in an office. What was the least useful aspect of the training event to you? What would you suggest to improve it?
- Left a little disappointed on the practical learning side. Develop an event to physically map or improve an area
- Covering things I have already learnt
- All desk-based. Add in very small site-based practical example.
- The least useful to me was the value stream mapping as I am not in a senior enough role to make full use of it personally, however the knowledge is very useful and is in the process of being relayed to my manager how can make better use of the techniques I learned.
- Would have been more beneficial to restrict to critical content and make the session more practical. Did you feel that your personal expectations were met or not? Please add any comments as appropriate.
- Yes
- Having not understood the whole lean office training package, my expectation was to have practicals on our own processes.
- Yes, was very informative.
- Yes and more.
- I didn't feel at first that the course was going to be beneficial, but in fact was really surprised at how useful it was and definitely felt it was useful. What will you do differently/change as a result of attending this training event?
- Introduce and implement 5S in the offices. Value stream key activities. Use visuals
- Create an event to map and 5S an area or process.
- Try to put 5S into use in my own area.
- Start sorting my filing system out.
- Start on 5S immediately.
- Sort out my office & daily schedule
- Will implement in my department
- Planning on implementing a proper 5S procedure to make my office/department more efficient and enjoyable place to work in. Also raising awareness of the 8 wastes so that the other department members can be involved in using this everyday hopefully to improve morale.
- Seek to implement 5S as a starting point. Have you any other comments to make about this training event?
- Many thanks.
- A lot of content to be trained in a short period of time. Dictated a fast pace. Presenter-oriented.
- Just like to say a big thank you to Paul Wilson who delivered the course in a very informative but enjoyable way. It was a long day but I thoroughly enjoyed it. March 2009 - Lean Office for Nestle

Aster delivered a one day Lean Office course for the confectioners, Nestle at York on 4th March 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Really inspirational - raised points in processes that had not been seen as issues before. The tools were easy to understand which makes it easier to translate into reality", Liz Young, HR.

"Gave a lot of food for thought and has given me plenty of ideas", Rob Keeping, IT Manager.

"Would definitely recommend Aster for further training courses we may wish to hold", Maxine Keeping, Technical Information Manager.

"Came into the course with an open mind, was not disappointed", Elaine Wallace, Admin Team Leader.

"The course was at a great pace and very relaxed and informal. Questions were welcomed and there was a good level of examples/scenarios given". Kim Foley, Principal Product Technologist.

February 2009 - Introduction to Lean Manufacturing

Aster delivered its first open Introduction to Lean Manufacturing training course of the year at its training facility in Milton Keynes on 25th-26th February 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Very interesting, good interactive training course. Learning by 'doing' is put into application and certainly the best way to remember", Fabienne Couaillac, Production Engineer, Martin Baker Ltd.

"Informative, engaging, none forgetful approach and easily understood", Patrick Gorner, Shift Leader, Sia Abrafoam Ltd

"Very interesting. I would recommend this too anyone who is the manufacturing sector", David Bacon, Factory Manager.

February 2009 - Problem Solving Skills

Aster provided the first of a series of training courses for the INTouch Group at their head office in Leeds on 20th

February 2009. The topic of the first course was Practical Problem Solving Skills. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Great Overview of the topic", Jason Gilmartin, Technical Manager.

"Helped me to think through problems", Jane Atherton, Artworker.

"Enjoyed the relaxed style, related well to our business", R.C. Bloomfield, Repro Pharma. February 2009 - Introduction to Marketing

Aster delivered an Introduction to Marketing training course on 19th February 2009 at its training venue in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Enjoyed trainers style, did not allow it to drag. Made you think about your own service rather than talking at you all day", Robert Earll, Luton Borough Council.

"Very enjoyable, very well delivered, comprehensive course notes, Matt Etherington, Demco Europe.

"Enjoyed the practical tasks, it re-iterated what had been previously taught", Phillipa Starmer, Skills for Security

February 2009 - Lean Office

Aster delivered it's latest open lean office course at its training facility in Milton Keynes on 5th February 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Good comparison to manufacturing which I could relate to being from a manufacturing background", Lesley Carr, Business Impact Ltd.

"Even as a trainer myself I found it enjoyable", Derek Robb, BIUK.

January 2009 - Total Productive Maintenance (TPM)

Aster delivered an on site TPM course at Kerry Ingredients in Bristol on 30th January 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"The Trainer was excellent. I felt comfortable expressing my opinions and my comments were well received", Bob Sperring, Health & Safety/Training Officer.

"Informative, explained well in a relaxed format", Martin Webb, Shift Manager.

January 2009 - Lean Supply Chain Management (LSCM)

Aster delivered an open lean supply chain management course at it's training facility in Milton Keynes on 29th January 2009. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"A very good day - well explained", R.W. Aubin, Operational Buyer.

"Opportunity to discuss and voice opinions, every opportunity to clarify issues", Paul Campen. January 2009 - Value Stream Mapping

Aster delivered an on site value stream mapping course for A&O Systems in January 2009. A Testimonial received following the course included:-

"A detailed methodology explained clearly and in a common sense manner", Paul Smith, Quality Manager. December 2008 - Six Sigma Yellow Belt

Aster delivered an open Six Sigma Yellow Belt Training course at its training venue in Milton Keynes on 9th December 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Explained and accurately demonstrated the obvious benefits these tools and techniques deliver", Simon Turner, Production Manager, Alcatel Lucent.

"I have enjoyed today's course and feel I can take away some real understanding. Very interesting, thanks", Sarak Sakar, Commissioning Engineer, Morgan EST.

"Excellent course, anyone in industry could see the benefits", Cathy Purse, Pollution Control, Thames Water.

November 2008 - Train the Trainer

Aster delivered an in house Train the Trainer course for Birmingham Hippodrome on 26th-27th November 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"A very good couple of days, certainly have not wasted valuable office time in attending. Motivated to now actually go and run a training session", Jenny Ellis, Customer Services Manager.

"Enjoyed the trainers style and delivery", Tejal Mistry.

"Pace very good. Practical exercises very useful, knowledge base appropriate", Dave Hartland. November 2008 - Introduction to Marketing

Aster delivered an open Introduction to Marketing training course at its training facility in Milton Keynes on 13th November 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Very informative course, presented in an understandable manner, most enjoyable course attended!", Katherine McHugh, Sales & Marketing Administrator.

"Comprehensive, practical overview class, well presented", Susan Finch, General Manager, Sia Abrafoam Ltd

"Good explanation of what marketing is all about. Can't wait to go back to the office and promote our products", Arlene Affouard, Sales & Marketing Executive, Optoma.

"Trainer made the session very relevant, excellent", Geraldine Evans - Policy & Events Executive, Ocean Media Group.

Paul knew the topic very well, answered all questions. I came away feeling positive and like I had gained some useful information", Lauren Murray-Henderson, Marketing Department, Gamma Global.

November 2008 - Total Productive Maintenance (TPM)

Aster delivered its final TPM open course of the year at its training facility in Milton Keynes in early November 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Good Course, presented in a passionate style", Ivan Diamond, MD, IAGT Ltd

"Good and informative course, discussions during the course constructive and supportive", Alan Trigg, Estate Manager, Ecovert FM.

October 2008 - 5S & 7 Wastes Training

Aster delivered a open 5S training course at its Milton Keynes training facility in October 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Excellent course. This course has developed my understanding of 5S, I leave with a great amount of confidence. Paul Wilson gave a first class course and presentation", Phil Norris, General After-Sales Manager, Northside Truck & Van Ltd For Mercedes Benz.

"The practical side of the course was very good. I was engaged to get involved and pass on my experiences. Made to feel at ease. Highly recommended", Russ Hallows, General Manager.

"One of the best courses I have attended in a long time. Very informative, great presentation style", Graham White, Health & Safety Coordinator, Tyco Fire & Security.

"The course never faltered and was interesting from start to end", David Crane, Quality Inspector.

October 2008 - Aster negotiate in Europe

Aster recently completed a training programme for NEFAB, the global packaging solution provider in Paris, France. Delegates from their global sourcing team attended the programme on purchasing skills and negotiation skills in early October 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Dynamite and Intuitive", Juan Pedro Sanchez Gonzalez, Sourcing, Spain.

"Thanks to Mark's and Paul's enthusiasm and experience I stayed alert and focussed during the entire training session", Henrik Anden, Supply Chain Manager, Sweden.

"I really enjoyed the session and learned some things about myself which might be useful in the future", Pieter De Mettelinge, Buyer, Belgium.

"Fun, good variation between theory and practical, very well documented and good real life situations. Nancy Scheyltiens, Business Consultant, Belgium.

"This course was very useful. I found the negotiation tactics very useful. I am sure that it will be useful in my future roles". David Camillo, Sourcing, Brazil.

"This course gave me very important information. I hope I will use the information in my future jobs as well as in my private life", Adam Jablonski, Customer Service, Poland.

"Very useful for my role at my company. Putting together in a systematic way information that you use", Filipe Silva, Product Manager, Netherlands.

"Very easy going trainers. Easy to speak to and understand. More discussion than 'teacher'". Peter Bjeldvuk, Sourcing Manager, China.

"It was interesting and even though I had seen some of the material before, I learned a lot. The way the material was presented was very good. The trainer was good at presenting and it made interesting listening", Bujar Ansani, Sourcing, France.

Good Negotiation Skills and important knowledge", Yunhui Wu, Strategic Sourcing Manager, China.

August 2008 - Introduction to Purchasing Course

Aster held the latest Introduction to Purchasing Training Course at its training facility in Milton Keynes on 19th August 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:

"I completed the course with a lot of positive ideas and techniques which I will be incorporating into my role", Martin Zacchi, Buyer, Walters OEP.

"I really enjoyed the course as it gave one a broad understanding of purchasing in a relaxed atmosphere", Sukhveer Shergill, Material Co-ordinator, Parker Hannifin plc. August 2008 - Kanban Training Course

Aster delivered a one day Kanban training course for BOCM Pauls and one of its customers on 18th August 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:

"The course was presented in a very personal way which helped link the process to our particular application", C. Langley, Projects Manager. August 2008 - Practical Negotiation Skills Course

Aster delivered the latest in a series of one day negotiation skills training courses at its training facility in Milton Keynes on 12th August 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:

"Good Course, useful practical examples which can be put into practice in the working day", Andrew Adams, Senior Buyer, DPS (Bristol) Ltd.

"Would do another one, e.g. purchasing", Gosia Kutyba, Assistant Buyer, William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd.

"Well presented, easy to understand", Michelle Taylor, Buyer, William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd.

August 2008 - Time Management Training Course

Aster delivered the latest in a series of time management training courses for the Birmingham Hippodrome on 6th August 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:

"The course was very thorough and clearly outlined. Good presentation and easy to follow. I found it very relevant to my position", Victoria Wong, Demi Chef de Partie.

"The time management training course provided a better insight and understanding of not only how to manage, organise and prioritise my work but also how to be more effective and assertive in day to day situations", Mohammed Nadim,

Finance Officer.

"It's a good and interesting course. I learned how to say 'NO', which is great because before this course I was not able to say it", Rashid Shabbir, IT Systems Officer.

"Very well presented, great hand outs given for future reference and topic explained thoroughly", Emma Phillips, Press and Marketing Assistant.

"Very interesting course, wouldn't mind doing it again, soon!", Sophia Yu, Hospitality and Events Supervisor. July 2008 - Total Productive Maintenance

Aster delivered a two day TPM Implementation training course for DEK Printing Machines in Weymouth. Testimonials received following the course included:

"I went into the course not quite sure of the relevance of the topic but soon realised that the theories fit in with everything we do", Darren Legg, Production Process Specialist.

"So interesting, info given in a way that was easily understood, put across in a way that I felt it could be easily implemented at DEK", Fiona Campbell, HR Trainer.

"Good Instructor, good content", John Kirby, Site Services Engineer.

"A very well paced course, pitched at the right level" Kevin Combes, Facilities Manager.

"Well Presented - Good interaction", David Searle, Mechanical Process Engineer.

"Paul was very well clued up about the whole TPM topic and how it could be used. His obvious enthusiasm for the topic made him a joy to listen to and work with", Brian Greatrex, New Products.

"A well presented course", Lawrence Stone.

"Information given was tailored to specific manufacturing needs and individual issues. Very helpful with practical implementation advice", Mark Sealey, Production Team Leader.

June 2008 - Control of Contractors

On the 25th June 2008 Aster delivered a one day control of contractors training course at its training facility in Milton Keynes. June 2008 - TPM Training

Aster delivered a one day TPM training course for Flaktwoods at their Colchester facility in June 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Opened my eyes to a different way of looking into manufacturing equipment", Ian Atkin, Manufacturing Engineer.

"Well presented by a trainer who clearly knew the topic well", Roger Smith, Site Maintenance Manager.

"Good presentation, re-enforced with real examples", Sean Banks, Manufacturing And Projects Manager.

"Was a good pace with some lively discussion and very informative", A Hubbard, Large Fan Products Engineer.

"Paul is very good fun and knowledgeable. Once again not only was the TPM subject covered in great detail but a very good insight to 'lean' was taught to all", Sam Day, Kaizen Facilitator.

"Very good trainer who's in depth knowledge of the subject shines through", Alick Bates, Materials Manager.

June 2008 - Total Productive Maintenance

Aster delivered a Total Productive Management course for PEME Process control and Mars Petcare in June 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Balance was good, well delivered, good knowledge base, great examples used", David Hamilton-Palmer, Area

Engineer, Mars UK.

"Good to be trained by someone who has 'walked the talk", Barrie Robinson, First Line Manager, PEME.

June 2008 - Team Leader Training

Aster delivered the latest of its one day Team Leader training courses on 2nd June 2008 at its training centre in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:

"Team Leader skills that can improve a productive team", Damanciano D'souza, Team Leader, Alcatel-Lucent.

May 2008 - 5S training

Following the success of an earlier course, Aster was asked deliver a further 5S and 7 Wastes training course for the management team at Giles Foods in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included,

"Beat That! ", Alyson Smith, HR Administrator.

"Good for us all to sit back and review why we do things", Andy Willis, Financial Director.

"The course was very well organised, easy to understand and full of diagrams", Mohammed Aris, Shift Manager.

"The course was very enjoyable", Christopher Hall, Shift Manager.

May 2008 - Introduction to Lean Manufacturing

Aster has been selected to provide a series of lean training courses for Kingfield Electronics Ltd. Testimonials received following the first course on 8th-9th May 2008 included:-

"I would recommend the course to others. I had my doubts about the usefulness of lean before the course began but having sat through the course I have been given some food for thought", Julian Wilson, Instrument Assembler.

"I am looking forward to implementing lean manufacturing", Paul Needham, Test Manager.

"Very good explanations based on my company's situations", Krzysztof Dudziec, Electronics Assembler.

"I enjoyed the course", Steve Chappell, Team Leader.

"The course was explained in a very relaxed atmosphere with interation from all attendees", Customer Account Manager. April 2008 - Failure Mode Effects Analysis (FMEA)

Aster delivered a one day introduction to FMEA course at its training venue on 30th April 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Good course and well presented, now feel confident about the subject", Phil Greener, Chief Inspector, Lymington Precision Engineers.

"Useful one day refresher (or introduction to FMEA for those new to the subject)", Shaun Burman, Head of Methods and Reliability, Total, Lindsey Oil Refinery.

"Excellent introduction to FMEA", Martyn Dunderdale, Reliability Engineer, Total, Lindsey Oil Refinery.

"The course gave a good introduction to FMEA at a component level but easily translated to a process or system", Reliability Engineer, Total, Lindsey Oil Refinery. April 2008 - 5S & 7 Wastes

Aster carried out a 2 day on site 5S & 7 Wastes training course for Milton Keynes based Giles Foods Ltd. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Very comprehensive and giving momentum to the exercise needed", David Rixon, MD.

"A real eye opener", Jonathan Deane, Engineering Manager.

"Very good course", Janice Wiseman, Team Leader.

"Enjoyed it, interesting learning different techniques", Jim Breen, Shift Manager.

"Brought management and production closer together with factory issues and hopefully this will enable 5S to be implemented, George Dobbie, Team Leader.

"Very informative and not too pacey- gave you time to think and absorb the information, Peter Jones, Shift Manager.

"A well constructed course and informative, put across in plain English", Neil Wipperman.

"Good knowledge with useful tools to be used", Aaron Charteris, Operations Director.

"The training material and trainer were a very high standard", Phil Alshawi, Technical Manager. April 2008 - 5S & 7 Wastes
 A Testimonial received following our open 5S training course on 8th April 08. " A very good practical demonstration", Kris England, Shift Production Manager, Graphic Packaging International. April 2008 - Basic Supervisory Skills

Aster delivered the latest in a series of Basic Supervisory Skills training courses for the Birmingham Hippodrome and its staff in April 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"It showed us some useful tools and a way of improving our style", Donald Deane, Head Chef.

"Good knowledge, good atmosphere, good day", Sophia Yuan, Hospitality & Events Supervisor.

"Gill is a very good speaker and very knowledgeable about what she is teaching, very good", Mark Brooks, FOH Duty Manager.

"This was extremely useful, to learn that my role is important and I have a lot to say and offer", David Faulkner, Duty Manager, Cashier.

"It was a friendly and sharing atmosphere, great", Damien Vincent, Events.

April 2008 - 5S & 7 Wastes On April 2nd 2008 Aster delivered an in house 5S & 7 Wastes training course to the leading newsprint company in the UK. Testimonials received following the course included:

"A thoroughly useful course that will be implemented with full senior management backing to succeed. We want all staff and customers to get the right impression of our company and I believe once implemented this will give them this. A quality company", Simon Karim.

"Moved at a good pace, was made interesting by the use of the visual slides which helped with the understanding", Alan Brett. March 2008 - Introduction to Lean Manufacturing

Aster delivered the latest open Introduction to Lean Manufacturing course at its training facility in Milton Keynes on 18th-19th March 2008. Testimonials received following the course include:

"A condense presentation of best practise with a diverse yet proven set of approaches, relevant to any business", Richard Davies, Continuous Improvement Facilitator, Nestle. "Very good style, clear communication, enough detail without being too detailed", Dave Allen, Production Engineering Manager, Niftylift.

"I felt the course was on a 'one to one' basis although this was a group course. Paul was able to explain things and use examples from my own environment to help explain the key points", Nick Bissaker, Team Leader, Niftylift. March 2008 - Effective Assistant Buyer

One of Asters' most popular open purchasing training courses, The Effective Assistant Buyer was delivered in Milton Keynes on 12th March 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:

"It has made me realise exactly how many 'time thieves' there are in my organisation and how I can successfully stop these hindering me", B. Rowles, ECL Contracts Ltd.

"Constructive and allowed opportunity to input information relevant to the business in which I am engaged", Mike Collins, David Clouting Ltd. March 2008 - Single Minute Exchange of Dies (SMED)

Aster Training completed an open Single Minutes Exchange of Dies (SMED) training course in Milton Keynes on 5th March 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"After a very early flight into Luton Airport I expected to be half asleep but was wrong. The course was engaging, interesting and the trainer was clearly motivated about the topic and SMED principles. I found the course very useful and it has given me some food for thought and a lot of new techniques and viewpoints, thanks", Bronagh Kelly, Lean Facilitator, Seagoe Technologies Ltd.

"Well presented and very flexible. The certificate you gave me was a plus", William M Brown, CI Facilitator, Reckitt Benckiser.

"Very useful and practical course, tailored for my own individual requirements. An involved and enthusiastic approach", Lawrence Ruddock, Production Programmer, Seagoe Technologies Ltd.

February 2008 - 5S Training - In House Course

Aster Training provided further 5S training for one of its established pharmaceutical clients in February 2008. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Very informative" Lyn Hunt, Production Service Technician.

"I didn't think it was relevant at the start of the course, however it became clear that 5S is relevant to my role after all, W.Dillon, Electrician.

"The course was very informative and the practical games were relevant to our processes", Production Supervisor.

February 2008 - Introduction to Purchasing - Open Course

Aster training completed its most recent Introduction to Purchasing Training open course at Milton Keynes on 26th February 2008. Feedback received from the course included:-

"Very informative course, I would recommend it", Nicola Roberts, Buyer, Dematic Ltd

February 2008 - Basic Supervisory Skills - Open Course

Aster training completed its most recent Basic Supervisory Skills Course at Milton Keynes on 19th-20th February 2008. Feedback received from the course included:-

"I really enjoyed the course because we were in a small group we were able to focus on issues that were the most important and relevant to each of us. Alex gave some great advice and tips which I will definitely use in the future", Jill Parsons, Training Support Officer, Mango.

"I found everything covered to be very good, I cannot find a way to improve on any of the content. I found I could ask questions and interrupt at any point in the course. This is very refreshing and showed the skill of the trainer", John Hoblett, Provisional Supervisor, Alcatel Submarine Networks.

"I'm ready to go to my new job back at work", Kumarasoorigar Jegatheesuhran, Alcatel Submarine Networks.

February 2008 - InTouch - Problem Solving Skills

InTouch, the global brand management company specialising in providing reprographics, pre-press, packaging design and graphics, employed Aster Training to provide a problem solving skills course for its staff. Testimonials received following the course included:

"Great introduction to problem solving skills - Many Ideas and thoughts to put into action", Keith McDonald.

"Clear, concise and good use of exercises to illustrate the relevant points", Sara Ledson, Customer Service Executive.

"As entertaining as it could be", Dave Haworth, QC.

"Excellent Tools, A friendly, helpful trainer", A. Boardman.

"Brilliant", Mark Pedley, Quality Control.

"The course got you thinking about solving problems from a team and not individual level", Andy May, Retail.

"Enjoyed the course, would do a further one on more detailed topics", Claire Muir, Colour Management.

January 2008 - A new year, a new start for 5S

Our first open course of the year was a 5S and 7 Wastes course delivered in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:

Excellent insight into the basic principles of 5S and 7 Wastes. A good balance between hands on and theory", Brian Blackburn, Operations Manager, TSI Instruments Ltd.

"Excellent if you are new to 5S", Graham Johnston, Operational Excellence Facilitator, Diageo.

"Excellent presentation - good class size. Room and drinks of a good standard and suitable", M Foster, Manufacturing Manager, Flaktwoods Ltd.

"The course was set out in a simple, clear manner. This I feel is a positive way of learning about 5S", Gergina Coll, Customer Services Representative, Sigma Aldrich.

"The hands on practical sessions made it easier to identify common wastes within our workplace", Lee Porter, Lab Technician, Sigma Aldrich.

"The course was excellent and explained the 5S and 7 wastes concepts in a very concise way. Each part was extremely well explained and I would recommend this course to anyone involved in manufacturing", Graham Pitcher, Production Manager, TSI Instruments Ltd.

"Very Informative and educational", Kevin Downes, TSI Instruments Ltd.

December 2007 - In House 5S and 7 Wastes Training Course

Aster delivered an in house 5S and 7 Wastes training course to one of the worlds leading pharmaceutical companies on 17th December 2007. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Personal examples used by the trainer (i.e. of his own time spent in business) were useful and encouraging", Kate Lewis, Date Management & Order Supervisor.

"No need to improve the course, it is very good already", Julia Osman, Senior Technician.

"Good basic course to be able to start 5S projects", Vanessa Merrett, Asst QC Manager.

"The practicals made it a fun day", Frances Huddart, Senior Technician.

"The course was well presented with knowledge and enthusiasm. The trainer had much experience of this subject and this was apparent throughout", Phillip Ashford, Senior Technician.

December 2007 - Failure Mode & Effects Analysis (FMEA)

On 12th December 2007 Aster held a FMEA training course in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:-

"Very clear and easy to understand examples", Nick Wilson, Lead Engineer, Gigasat Ltd

"I wouldn't change a thing about this course, it was very good. Both DFMEA and PFMEA", David Jones, DVP Engineer, Lear Corporation.

"I will recommend other staff from my company attend this course", S Lowe, QC Inspector, Unipart Rail. December 2007 - Introduction to Lean Manufacturing

Aster delivered its final lean manufacturing course of 2007 in Milton Keynes on 4th-5th December. Testimonials received following the course included:

"The first day of the course was particularly useful and had lots of examples I can use to improve the efficiency of my department. Some very useful information. A good overview of the system and how to implement it", Nicola Ayres, Team Leader, Sigma Genosys.

"As a company we have already implemented 5S, 7 wastes and have just started TPM. I hope with great passion to implement cell manufacturing leading to the same high level of results as the other tools. Thanks." Hayley Moss, Nightshift Team Leader, Sigma Genosys.

"Extremely good course, very enjoyable and informative. Paul's (The trainer) presentation technique along with his practical knowledge have given me lots of tools that I can take back with me and apply to my work place", Andy Fitt, Continuous Improvement Engineer, Leoni Temco.

"The practical workshop example was a very good practice to show the results of the implementation of the theory", Stephen Lau, PDD group.

"The course was excellent but I thought it could be slowed a little to ensure adequate absorption time", Martin Cilia, Production Lead, Zeroshift Ltd.

"Very enjoyable and professionally presented", Mick Teare, Production Manager, Communisis.

"I will take most of this course and implement it with my workforce", Martin Cray, Production Manager, Communisis.

November 2007 - Advanced Purchasing - Sturrock Power

Aster produced a bespoke advanced purchasing skills for the purchasing team at this Edinburgh based company. This followed on from a successful training programme in 2006. Testimonials received following the course included:

"I really enjoyed the course, especially the practical case studies", Amanda Donaldson, Assistant Buyer.

"I thought the trainer (Mark) used humour at points which helped the run smoothly", Matthew Hutchison, Assistant Buyer.

"The trainer made the course enjoyable", Janette Lynch, Buyer.

"I really enjoyed the case studies, the pace was good and everything was explained very clearly", Laura Tinlin, Purchasing Administrator. November 2007 - Total Productive Maintenance (TPM)

The final open TPM course of 2007 was held in Milton Keynes on 21st November 2007. Some of the testimonials received following the course included:

"Very Good introduction to TPM and how to deliver in the workplace", Clive Maughan, TRW Automotive Ltd.

"The course was very enjoyable due to the tutor having good knowledge of different working environments and procedures", Alan Bond, OP-ex Facilitator, Diageo.

November 2007 - In House 5S Training

Aster recently completed an in-house 5S training course for the 'lean team' of a trading division of one of the worlds largest chemical companies. Testimonials received following the 5S training course included:

"Excellent", Graeme Mayes, Production Manager.

"Very good course, energised the workforce to implement the project. Very good mix of presentation, examples and role play", D. Stockford.

"The practical exercise was very useful in helping to understand the benefits of 5S", Phil Giles Buyer.

"Very clear, very concise", Susan Stevenson, Planning/Supply Chain.

"Very knowledgeable trainer with an excellent presentation style. Good mix of theory and practice", Anne Nichol, Production Technical Leader.

October 2007 - Effective Management

Aster delivered a two day effective management course for the team at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Testimonials arising following the course included:

"Gave me a solid foundation to build upon", Stephen 'O' Hare, It Manager.

"Nice to be brought up to speed with modern management styles", Tim Turner, Security Manager.

"Excellent, enjoyable and positive course. Well directed and presented. The trainer had an excellent flair and manner in making all course delegates feel welcome and positive about themselves", David Eden, Customer Service Manager.

"The course went well with the introduction of seligman, it was very interesting with some new directions and thoughts", Mike Croke, Facilities Manager.

"Informative, interesting and helpful", David Hartland, Customer Service Manager.

September 2007 - Practical Problem Solving Skills

Aster delivered a one day problem solving skills course at Tokheim in Dundee on practical problem solving skills. Tokheim Group S.A.S., based in Paris (France) is one of the world's leading manufacturers and servicers of fuel dispensing equipment. Tokheim offers customers a complete range of fuel dispensers and pumps, retail automation systems, payment terminals, media devices, replacement parts and upgrade kits.

Testimonials received following the course included:

"Good Interactive Skills, most enjoyable, good knowledgeable trainer for the course", Colin McCafferty, Paint shop Manager.

"Very Good Interactive course", Christine Scott, Senior Term Leader.

"Very well put across in an enjoyable atmosphere", Bob Justice, Production Quality Leader.

"Being able to use current problems as practical examples in the course was very useful", Malcolm Stanger, Quality Engineer. September 2007 - Effective Assistant Buyer Training Course

Aster delivered a one day assistant buyer course for those buyers who have some practical purchasing experience but wanted to know more about the theoretical side of purchasing.

Testimonials received following the course included :

"A very useful and informative course", Elaine Lawrence, Materials and Planning Manager, Microbus Ltd.

September 2007 - Team Leader Skills

Aster delivered a two day team leader course at Micro Circuit Engineering in September 2007. Micro Circuit Engineering Limited, specialises in the design, manufacture and testing of custom electronic components and sub-systems, including Application Specific Integrated Circuits, Custom Electronic Modules, Standard Components, Packaging of Microsystems and Ruggedised Displays.

Testimonials received following the course included:

"I have enjoyed the course very much. I found it very well presented, very informative and a great help for me in my future development as a team leader", Georgia Thompson, Team Leader.

"Covered everybody's abilities and I didn't feel unable to comment", Tina Murray, Team Leader.

"A very knowledgeable trainer who presented the topic in an interesting and interactive way", Clive Jacobs, Test Manager.

"This course made me more aware of what I should be doing against what is actually being done. I hope I am now far more self aware", Nigel Tebbit.

"The only way I can see to improve the course would be to have an additional day to explore certain areas in more detail - fascinating and very interesting!", Kevin Hadley, Team Leader.

September 2007 - Introduction to Purchasing

Aster delivered a one day Introduction to Purchasing course in Milton Keynes on 6th September 2007. Testimonials received following the course included:

"Very Interesting overview leading to thoughts as to how we could use the knowledge to improve our business", Alan

Lees, Materials Co-ordinator, Parker Sales UK.

"Course content very thorough and enjoyable. Pace and content was very good, learned a lot", Michelle Taylor, Assistant Buyer, William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd.

"I found the course very interesting, learned a lot. Hope to use new skills in my role", Maria Dix, Purchasing Manager, Walters OEP Ltd.

"Interesting, informative and enjoyable. It will be very useful to apply many of the techniques outlined to my role. Having little formal experience of purchasing I found the course content easy to understand", Vicky Johnson, Materials Co-ordinator, Parker Sales UK. August 2007 - 5S and 7 Wastes Training

Aster completed its third 5S and 7 Wastes open training course of 2007 on 1st August. Testimonials received from the course included:

"Good positive style", John Cockburn-Evans, Manufacturing Process Engineering Manager.

"Excellent communication, very fluent in subject matter", Phil Weaver, R&D Technician.

"Was very simple, direct and to the point and has given me a fantastic start and direction to assist and implement 5S and 7 Wastes", Steven Robinson, Production Manager, Space Kitchens. July 2007 - Customer Service Training

Aster completed a second course for north west based Acsojoucomatic Numatic in the month. This second course focussed on Customer Service and Internal Sales training. Testimonials received following the course included:

"Nerve racking at first but the course was informal and relaxed", Paula Yolip, Customer Service Advisor.

"Opened up a whole side of sales I didn't realise was there", Chris Waring, Technical Sales Engineer.

"A useful overview of a cold call scenario", A useful guide for referral", Laura Whitfield, Customer Service Advisor.

"The course was well presented and all topics were explained simply and clearly. Although having little knowledge initially and also being quite apprehensive, I found the course enjoyable", Linda Callaghan, Customer Service Advisor.

July 2007 - Time Management

Aster delivered a one day Time Management training course for the staff at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Testimonials received following the course included:

"I felt the tutor delivered the contents extremely well which was interesting. His tone and voice control were vibrant and welcoming. Excellent Presentation", David Eden, Customer Services Manager.

"I found the course very interesting and relevant to my work. I think I will be able to apply many of the principles of this course to my current role and hope it will improve my working methods", Hannah Silvester, Marketing.

"The course was really useful and I've learnt lots of things I can apply in my role", Lauren Baker, Hospitality & Events.

"Very good again, Great content and great presentation", Simon Creed, Technical Coordinator.

"The course shows how you can actually control your own work environment", Lucy Milliner, Bar Supervisor.

"Very interesting, made me think about my approach to situations and how I can organise my time with better results. Very good indeed!", Maria Gilmore, Box Office Supervisor.

July 2007 - Sales Skills Training

Aster carried out sales training for Ascojoucomatic Numatics in July 2007. This comprised of a number of topics but focussed mainly on telesales training and negotiation training. Testimonials received following the course included:

"Very informative, presented in a clear, relaxed manner. Generated much group discussion", Steve Barford.

"Second time I have had training from Aster. Delivered to the same high standard", Chris Paterson, Marketing Technician.

"Enjoyable and an informed trainer on what really happens in sales situations", A. Furlong, Area Manager.

"Enjoyable training that combined common sense with fun", David Graham, Fluid Control Product Specialist.

"Very well prepared and involved participation", P Richards, Distribution Manager.

"Very good course, got a great deal from it", Jim Starbuck, Area Manager.

"Good interaction. All day the interest level was high. Nothing was irrelevant or boring, no nodding off!", Chris Walsh, OEM Sales Manager.

"Excellent coverage of material, very interesting, producing lots of discussion", M Shelley, Area Sales Manager.

"I thought the course was very well organised with all points being explained thoroughly", David Minors, Product Support.

"I have been on many sales training courses, this was the best to date", Larry Falconer, Business Development. July 2007 - Lean Office

Aster completed a one day lean office training course for staff at Baxter Healthcare. Testimonials received included:

"The course was informative and gave food for thought for daily tasks", Shirley Standley, Offices Services.

"I learnt that the meaning of lean wasn't necessarily about getting rid of staff but working efficiently and using certain techniques to maximise value added tasks", Helen Johnson, Laboratory Group Leader.

"Easy to follow slide show, comprehensive knowledge by trainer, informal atmosphere and encouraged to interact", Sue Brady, QA Documentation Controller.

"Good delivery of material, good handouts", Debbie Humphrey, Documentation Release Supervisor.

"Very informative but would of liked to discuss how it could be implemented within individual departments. However I look forward to the challenge of doing so within my office", Sheelagh Keats.

July 2007 - Team Member to Team Leader

Aster often carry out one to one mentoring as was the case in a recent team leader training course delivered in July 2007.

"This course proved valuable in my transition from Team Member to Team Leader", Geoff Baulk, Logistics Team Leader.

July 2007 - GE Aviation select Aster for Team Leader Training

We recently completed a series of four team leader training sessions with GE Aviation in July 2007. Testimonials received from the course included:

"I feel I have come out of this course feeling more confident talking in groups. I feel my presentation skills have improved tenfold", Russell Palmer, Test Technician.

"Great feeling in the group, all made to feel we were doing the right things", Lynn Eyles, Team Leader.

"Alex was clear and thorough, excellent", Lee Wilkinson, Team Leader.

"Alex was very informative, enjoyed the course very much", Dean Evans, Team Leader.

"I've learnt lots of new ideas that can help me to become a better team leader", Adrian Stephens.

"This course was a good eye opener, great course", Shaun Merriman, Team Leader.

"Well presented and we were all involved in all of the exercises and encouraged by the tutor", John Gilder, Team Leader.

"The course has given me more confidence and the skill set to grow into my new role of Team Leader", Shane Cox, Team Leader.

"Great, the topics covered were very large but the information we were given was very apt for the job we are going to do, time went very quickly", Stephen Twine, Team Leader.

"Very helpful", Graham Rowe.

"Very well put together and informative", Ray Day.

"Very good, good insight into yourself, worth doing", Phil Comfort, Team Leader.

"Two good days", John Pulham, Team Leader.

July 2007 - 5S Training raises the Spirits

Aster recently completed a 2 day 5S & 7 Wastes leadership course for the bottling facility of John Dewar & Sons Ltd in Glasgow. Part of the Bacardi group of companies, Dewar's has something truly unique for every discerning Scotch Whisky drinker. Their range includes 'White Label', 'Dewar's 12' and 'Dewar's Signature'.

Testimonials received following the course included:

"The course was valuable and delivered in an interesting and decriptive style with plenty of delegate involvement", Arthur Baxter, Manufacturing Team Leader.

"Very informative", Chris Kane, Production Operator.

"Excellent course and presentation, nice change to have someone with an understanding of a production environment and teaching and mentoring, now looking forward to implementing 5S principles into our company", Kevin Rodger.

"I found the course to be very interesting and informative. Paul communicated it very well and I wouldn't hesitate to go on further courses", Linda Doyle, Production Operator.

"Opens your mind to ways you can improve your business yourself and as a team, by using simple techniques and thinking laterally", Paul Goodvin, Production Operator.

"Enjoyed the team games, in general good fun", Ronnie Rush, Production Operator.

June 2007 - Introduction to Purchasing

Aster completed its latest open short course in Introduction to Purchasing in Milton Keynes on 31st May 2007.

Testimonials received following the course included:

"Re-enforced the importance of a buyers role within an organisation. Kept all involved", Michelle Bagnall, Purchasing Manager, Centurion Electronics.

"Very good overview and introduction to the purchasing role, more than met my expectations", Gary Marsh, Purchasing Manager, Ferex Ltd. May 2007 - 5S Leadership at RPC Containers

Aster completed a 5S leadership course at RPC Containers designed to build upon work already carried out by the in-house team. The course focussed on developing ideas to both maintain and sustain progress already achieved by working towards making 5S culturally engrained within the organisation. Testimonials received included:

"The course has given me ideas relating to how to create a 5S culture on shift by developing a shift team initially and by eventually getting full shift personnel involvement", Trevor Hayes, Weekend Shift Manager.

"Having had 5S training on a number of occasions before, this training was more relevant to our industry. Also, Paul (trainer) gave a realistic account on how long and who needs to be involved to move 5S techniques forward", Shane Dixon, Injection Moulding Supewrvisor.

"Very informative day, lots of oppportunity for participation, went away with a lot of ideas to implement", Mel Talbot, Night Shift Manager.

"Thought the trainer got the information across very well, clear and concise", Alberto Armas, PET Dept Manager.

"Well presented and easy to follow. Enjoyed. Good refresher", Mark Culshaw, Shift Manager.

May 2007 - Latest Lean Testimonials

Aster completed its latest lean office training course in Milton Keynes on 9th May 2007. Delegates attended from a wide range of companies/organisations including the Royal Air Force, Bakkavor and Boston Scientific in the Republic of Ireland. Testimonials received include:

"An excellent introduction into the application of lean principles in an office environment for lean initiates", Sgt Pete Longman, RAF Cottesmore.

"Very good, informative and well presented", Sgt Simon Bervoets, RAF Cottesmore.

"Working in a manufacturing environment for 3 months, have heard a lot before but this has really brought home the true meaning of these methods. Thank You very much", Nathan Neale, MET Trainer, Bakkavor.

May 2007 - Poka Yoke Training

Aster completed a Poka Yoke training course at the Preston site of Baxi Heating UK Ltd. The Baxi Group is home to some of the best known heating brands in Britain. As well as Baxi and Potterton boilers they also offer a stunning range of fires and stoves from Baxi, Valor and Wonderfire to trade and individual customers.

Testimonials received following the course included:

"Very Good", Dave Cottam, Maintenance.

"Very rewarding", Anthony Hodgson, Maintenance.

"Overall the course was very useful with good information tailored to our business", Dave Gardner.

"Good fun, great involvement", Craig Laraway, Quality Engineer.

"I enjoyed the simulations, got some good ideas for improvements to the work place", Antonio Corvino, Supervisor.

"A good friendly pace that ensured good involvement of multi-discipline team members", Dominic Tattersall, Production Supervisor.

"The course was very good. The improvements would come from our own involvement of engineering staff and operators", Richard Davies, Assembly Manager.

"Very good, will implement what has been learn't today", Peter Mitchinson, Components Manager.

"Very Good", Rick Czyzewski, SQA Engineer.

April 2007 - Basic Supervisory Skills

Aster delivered a 2 day Basic Supervisory Skills training course for the Birmingham Hippodrome on 25th-26th April 2007.

Testimonials received following the course included:-

"I did not expect to enjoy this course but was pleasantly surprised", Gareth Bennett, Senior Technician.

"Kept people interested throughout the 2 days", Martin Pickard, Senior Technician.

"Highly enjoyable, informative, interesting and stimulating course, very well presented", Simon Creed, Technical Co-ordinator.

"I think this course would help any Supervisor improve", Paul Bramley, Restaurant Supervisor.

"I found the course very useful and will certainly be liaising with my manager in the future so we can improve communication and skills within the team", Debbie Sangha, Box Office Supervisor.

April 2007 - Introduction to Lean Manufacturing

Our open two day Introduction to Lean Manufacturing training course was held on 17th-18th April 2007 at the REGUS offices in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:

"The course was a good kick start into the journey of lean", Paul Furlong, Product Engineer, NEC.

"Lots of new tools to use and help us", Jonathan Watts, Support Team Manager, Britvic Soft Drinks.

"The course satisfied my requirements and raised my energy levels to press forward again with the 'lean' journey, Paul Latchem, Production Manager, Communis PDM Bath.

"Focussing, educating and enjoyable", Paul Bridges, Process Engineer, Communis, Bath.

"Very good introduction to lean manufacturing, with a very good and highly knowledgeable instructor", Alick Bates, Supply Chain Planner, Flaktwoods Ltd.

"Very good basis for implementing lean", Sam Day, Kaizen Project Facilitator, Flaktwoods Ltd.

"Overall very impressed and felt very informed, Thank You.", Graham Book, Communis, Bath

April 2007 - 5S & 7 Wastes

Aster completed a one day 5S & 7 Wastes workshop at its training venue in Milton Keynes. Testimonials received following the course included:

"This has re-invigorated my passion for process improvements. real answers to real problems in the real world", Gary Mapletoft, HR Manager, Cronite Castings Ltd.

"This course really helped to re-enforce my knowledge of not only 5S but also lean manufacturing in general. Very Big Thanks", Sam Day, Kaizen Project Facilitator, Flaktwoods Ltd.

"The course was very enjoyable and the trainer was very knowledgeable", Carol Collins, Production Team Co-ordinator, Harting Ltd.

"The course was enjoyable, informative and thorough", Umesh Mahesuria, Senior Technician, Harting Ltd.

April 2007 - Total Productive Maintenance (TPM)

Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) is the lean tool concerned with maximising the efficiency of Production Machinery. TPM utilises a team approach to remove the losses from machine areas by the introduction of autonomous maintenance programmes. Testimonials received from the most recent course included:

"The course re-enforced what I had experienced and it will now enable me to progress this process in a more structured manner", Keith Oakley, Production Team Manager, Britvic Soft Drinks.

"Very relaxing and informative training", Don Pleasants, Maintenance Supervisor, BiBBY Transmissions. April 2007 - Poka Yoke at Tokheim

Aster carried out a one day Poka Yoke training course at the Dundee Manufacturing plant of Tokheim. Tokheim Group S.A.S., based in Paris (France) is one of the world's leading manufacturers and servicers of fuel dispensing equipment. With operations in many countries around the globe, Tokheim offers customers a complete range of fuel dispensers and pumps, retail automation systems, payment terminals, media devices, replacement parts and upgrade kits, and a full range of support services, including service station construction and maintenance. Testimonials received following the course included:

"A good basic grounding of the quality tools required in a modern manufacturing environment", Tom Aitchison, QA Manager.

"Enjoyed Course, excellent notes", Malcolm Stanger.

"Most enjoyable course, very relevant to our requirements", Bob Justice, Production Quality Leader.

"Good presentation from trainer & communication skills allowing us to receive a good understanding of POka Yoke", Colin McCafferty.

"The course was very useful for the requirements we have within our company", John McIntosh, Production Unit Controller.

"The hands on approach was of benefit", Roddy Spiers.

"The practical sessions helped break up the theory, ensuring everyone was involved", Frankie Rachwal, Manufacturing

Engineering.

"Very Practical and enjoyable", Ping Xu.

"Well structured and presented, Educational and informal", Murdo Maccuish, Manufacturing Engineer.

March 2007 - HR for Line Managers - EIC

The Energy Industries Council (EIC) is the leading Trade Association for UK companies that supply capital goods and services to the energy industries world-wide. Aster was engaged to deliver a HR for Line Managers course for a range of its management team.

"The course covered all topics I needed to know on the HR and legal requirements", Parvez Butt, Technical Director.

"Smart", Phil Goddard, Director.

"This course resulted in as many questions as answers and most of these were well covered, no mean feat in one day", Mike Gregory, CEO.

"Excellent introduction to a very important topic", plus very enjoyable", Sarah Beattie, Events Director.

"An excellent presentation which covered all the topics of concern", Ian Leith, Commercial Director.

March 2007 - Lean Supply Chain Management - Xyratex

Aster completed a lean supply chain management workshop at Xyratex, the hampshire based provider of enterprise class data storage subsystems and network technology.

Testimonials received from the course included:

"Good basic knowledge/grounding of lean supply chain material techniques. We will use this to progress some of the internal actions we now need to make", Mark Sampson.

"A very good course. Often we know what we're doing well, its good to sometimes have 'external' confirmation of this", Dave Wigley, NSS SAP Implementation Team Member.

"Very good introduction, excellent refresher on the things we know we should be doing", Neil Pennington, SAP Delivery Manager.

"The course gave possible solutions to existing business problems. The key is how to implement in the current structure", Michael Knight, Supply Chain Project Leader.

"Very good use of a day. Well presented in a 'non-jargon' manner, Rick Allen.

March 2007 - 5S & 7 Wastes

Testimonials received from the latest 5S training course are listed below:-

"The course was well presented, informative and thought provoking, encouraging full participation", Bill Carpenter, Asst Production Manager.

"I was sceptical about 5S before the course. Aster Training has changed my view from a negative one to a very positive one", Stuart Farmer, HSE Co-ordinator.

March 2007 - Introduction to Marketing Aster completed a very successful introduction to marketing training day for ASCO JOUCOMATIC NUMATICS at their Skelmersdale facility in Lancashire. The purpose of the training was to review marketing plans already in place and identify further options for ASCO to market their products.

Testimonials received, following the course are listed below:-

"A complicated subject, made to look simple", Steve Meadows, Marketing Manager.

"Very focussed, with just the right level of detail leaves you with the tools to develop your own marketing plan and also how to sell it to your colleagues", Ian Parkinson, Distribution Manager- North.

"The trainer made the training very informative and kept me interested throughout the day", Chris Paterson, Marketing Assistant.

"A very enjoyable day that has given me food for thought", Mike Williams, Marketing Assistant.

"It highlighted glaring holes in our current methods of marketing", David Graham, Product Specialist.

"Well presented and informative course", Mike Howells, Product Specialist. February 2007 - Effective Assistant Buyer
Aster delivered an effective assistant buyer training course in Milton Keynes on 26th February 2007. Testimonials received from the course included,

"Very good notes and understanding of the topics made clear, simple and easy to absorb", Karen Webb, Facilities Manager, Fujitsu MicroElectronics Europe GmbH.

"Good Course, not too intense. The pace was about right for new staff in a purchasing role", Lorraine Hart, Unipath Ltd.

January 2007 - Value Stream Mapping (VSM)"An Excellent value stream mapping training day. Just a short note to say thank you for the training last week. I have had lots of positive feedback. As a result of this, I've got the go ahead to schedule another course. I'll call you later this week to discuss possible dates. Thanks again". John Hutchison, Manager, Operational Excellence, Hale Products Ltd.

January 2007 - Practical Negotiation Skills

Kingfield Heath, the wholesale office supplies distributor engaged Aster to provide a series of in-house negotiation training courses. Testimonials received following the courses are listed below.

"Excellent course. If the advanced course was proposed, I would jump at the chance to take part", Andrew Hill, Group Inventory Controller.

"I really enjoyed the course and found that the role play was both enjoyable and useful to my role in merchandising", Julie Hedge, Merchandise Co-ordinator.

"The role play is very enjoyable", which is a first", Matt Wand, Marketing.

"Very relaxed, interesting and informative, very relevant to real life situations", Jill Strutt, Product Manager.

"Very useful to analyse the negotiation role play and how we might react to different situations", Nigel Moran, Purchasing Manager.

"It's an enjoyable course that makes you think not just about negotiation tactics but everyday occurrences and how to respond accordingly. The body language section was particularly interesting", Rachel Firth, Merchandising Coordinator.

"Good fun and very informative, Excellent Presentation Style", Richard Hoyland, Product Manager.

"Really enjoyed the course, especially the role play", Vikki Stothard, Group Inventory Supervisor.

"Really enjoyed the discussion and role play aspects of the course", Lynn Raynes, Inventory Control Supervisor.

"Very Good, very thorough - non negotiable", Natalie Cooper, Packaging Design Coordinator.

"Excellent day, seemed to cover all relevant topics and met delegates requirements. Very well presented and a good balance between role play and presentation", Adam O'Donoghue, Head of Purchasing & Supply Chain.

"The course was very useful and gave pointers that we will find useful with our suppliers. Presented very well", Jill Nichol, Merchandise Co-ordinator.

"Very helpful course that has given me some good guidelines on how to undertake future negotiations with suppliers. Lots of hints & tips. I now feel more confident in negotiations", Hannah Castell, Merchandise Co-ordinator.

January 2007 - 5S and 7 Wastes
Following our most recent open 5S and 7 Wastes course we received the following testimonials.

"The course was spot on and gave practical examples of 5S implementation. I left the course feeling motivated and excited at the benefits 5S could bring to our business", Alex Howe, Production Manager, Harting Integrated Solutions Ltd.

"The course was very good and will be useful", Amalia Draia, Assistant Quality Engineer.

"I found the course very useful and inspiring. I will most certainly push to use this lean tool with some enthusiasm", David Fraiel, NPI Technician.

"It was a good to have practical exercises in a class room environment", Hazel Hall, HR Manager, Specac Ltd.

"I got a lot of good ideas to implement at work", John Morrish, Team Leader, Specac Ltd.

January 2007 - NHS negotiate again.....Tameside and Glossop PCT followed in the footsteps of their Bury PCT colleagues by engaging Aster Training to train a number of their managers in negotiation techniques. Kathy Roe, Deputy Director of Finance stated, "The course included some good practical examples of how to use negotiating skills".

January 2007 - Practical Negotiation SkillsAster completed a negotiation skills training course at its Milton Keynes venue. Testimonials received from the course included:-

"A fun, enjoyable learning experience in negotiation, primarily for work purposes but also in everyday life, very useful.", Carolyn Pugh, Development Manager, Birmingham Hippodrome.

"Very interesting and involved course which really brought the points home", John Hagan, Media Manager, Graphico New Media Ltd.

"As it was a small group it was more beneficial and enabled controlled discussions. The trainer was very knowledgeable and was keen to encourage development", Andrew Steele, Procurement Manager, Central Catering Supplies Ltd.

January 2007 - Disciplinary & Grievance - Renault UK

Aster Training recently carried out disciplinary and grievance training for REAGROUP UK Ltd. Testimonials received from the course are listed below.

"Yes I feel much clearer about the law and I feel more equipped to carry out the HR role", Sarb Chopra, PA/HR Coordinator.

"Very thorough and in depth, very useful and raised areas which I need to look at. All questions answered in depth", Ruth Davey, PA to GM.

"Necessary to have refresher courses like this one from time to time", Mandy Virch, HR Manager.

"It was great to be able to ask questions about relevant subjects. This was informal and informative", Regional HR Coordinator.

"Good introduction to Disciplinary and Grievance procedures", Mary Steptoe.

December 2006 - Introduction to Purchasing Skills

Aster completed a one day introduction to purchasing skills course in Milton Keynes on 18th December 2006. Several of the delegates gave us permission to use their testimonials.

"The course was very informal yet informative", Polly Howard, Commercial Co-ordinator, Lee & Plumpton.

"Friendly, relaxed atmosphere which was informative and useful", Derrick Smith, R&D Manager, Lee & Plumpton.

December 2006 - Basic Supervisory SkillsAster completed a two day basic supervisory skills course on 5th-6th December 2006. Course testimonials received included:-

"Alex is articulate and very engaging. It has been a pleasure learning this method over the past couple of days". Tony Delpont, Alcatel Submarine Networks.

"I entered the course with no previous supervisory experience, this course has definitely given me an insight into what to expect and the ability to handle different situations once I start my new role", Grant Buckley, Alcatel Submarine Networks.

"The course added structure to what was a concept with smudged edges", Veronica Tabet, Alcatel Submarine Networks.

"A well thought out and interesting course, the morning sessions were put across in a learning mode, whilst the afternoon sessions were times when we found at more about ourselves", Patrick Murphy, Merrill Corporation.

"Very good and informative course", Clive Kidd, Team Leader, Merrill Corporation.

"The course has given me confidence in the changes the company are putting in place. The reassurance that the efforts of the past year are 'grounded' will be a positive to all members of the company at all levels", Andrew Roper, Driver Supervisor, Save A Cup.

"This course has made me feel very positive and it gives an indication of what is being done well and where improvement can be made. Very informative, helpful and highly recommended, Thank You!"Sarah Bridge, Save A Cup.

"Great to spend time out of the office with a colleague as it gave me the chance to re focus and look at areas that need improvement and further development", Jodie Coomer,Specsavers.

November 2006 - Lean Manufacturing Testimonials Aster completed its latest 2 day lean workshop in Milton Keynes on 7th-8th November 2006. Course testimonials received included:-

"I found the course content interesting. A good mix of theory & practical. The tutor was able to provide good 'every day' examples, James Dean, Alcatel Submarine Networks.

"Very well run, course content was good and trainer had good background knowledge", Colin Brady, Manufacturing Engineer, Niftylift Ltd.

"Enjoyable and informative course from a trainer who has obviously implemented lean manufacturing in the real world", Basil Qureshi, Brose Ltd.

"Enjoyed the course, looking forward to trying to implement lean manufacturing in my workplace", Grant Buckley, Alcatel Submarine Networks.

"Well presented and informative", Les Edmondson, Niftylift Ltd.

"A great deal was covered in the short amount of time given to this big subject", Jon Roberts, Operation Director, St Ives Web Ltd.

October 2006- Xyratex Lean Testimonials

Aster was selected to carry out introduction to lean manufacturing training for Xyratex at their Havant facility in Hampshire. Xyratex is a leading provider of enterprise class data storage subsystems and network technology.

Testimonials received included:-

"A good investment in a busy workload", Steve Ball, Line Support Engineer.

"Well presented-very thorough course detail", Steve Watts, Team Leader.

"A good overview, suitable for all levels as base education or as a "refueller" and as a lead into a lean program", Neil Watson, V.P. Worldwide Quality.

"Very good course, well presented and explained", Rick Whitehill, Quality Systems Engineer.

"An excellent grounding in the benefits of lean manufacturing", Tim Matthews, UK Test Engineering Manager.

"Enjoyable and Inspiring", Mike Monkman, Principal Quality Engineer.

"I was very new to all of these concepts and found the course very interesting and very useful. It was well presented so that I came away with a good basic understanding of lean manufacturing", Maria Gofton, Warranty Quality.

October 2006 - HR for Line Managers & Hughes

Hughes Network Systems, is the world's leading provider of broadband satellite services, networks and other products for both large and small businesses. Aster was commissioned to provide HR for Line Managers training for the Milton Keynes based facility.

"Gill, our trainer, pitched the learning at the right level for the team. She seemed to understand quickly our business and corporate 'style'. Gill was flexible and allowed the team to go 'off-message' occasionally. She was practical and happy to give 'real-world' advice", Deborah Biggs, HR Manager.

"Excellent course for the managers", Mohammed Shahid, ECAC Manager.

"Extremely useful insight into HR for myself who has recently taken up a line management role. A real eye opener". Daren Walker, Programme Manager.

"The company relevance and pace were spot on - Gill allowed us to identify some areas of improvement not only for our individual areas, but also at a senior management level", Pete Haseler, Field Service Manager.

October 2006 - 5S Training at Tyco Aster recently completed 5S and 7 Wastes workshops at Tyco Electronics in Cheney Manor, Swindon. Approximately 50% of the manufacturing team were trained over the course of the programme.

A selection of the Testimonials received were as follows:-

"Excellent Course", Pete Law, Team Co-ordinator.

"Very relaxed and informative", Roger Jordan, Key Operative.

"Good speed and delivery, also good interaction", Joseph Sullivan, Team Leader.

October 2006 - SMED Implementation Aster was engaged to deliver a two day SMED training workshop to the world class manufacturing team at Crown Aerosols in Sutton in Ashfield. Comments following the course were as follows:-

"The course gave an excellent insight into set-up reduction and the increased productivity we could expect", Paul Martin, Coating Operator.

"Excellent, very interesting", Dale Richardson, Printer.

"Enjoyable, informative, sure it will show benefits in set up reduction and productivity, Ta", Dave Pryjdu, World Class Performance Technician.

September 2006 - Introduction to Purchasing Aster Training recently delivered an introduction to purchasing training course in Milton Keynes. A number of delegates gave us their permission to use their testimonials.

"Very enjoyable, the negotiation role play was handled well to ease peoples nerves", Steven Whiddett, UK Contract & Supply, Atlas Copco.

"Very good knowledge and presented at the right pace, very relaxed atmosphere", Sandra Braniff, Production Planner, MedImmune Ltd.

"I really enjoyed the course, I gained an overall insight into purchasing, it was very well explained, Jackie Furbear, Purchasing Asst, Gallaher Ltd

"Very interesting- gave a real 'eye-opener' to where sales reps are coming from and how to deal with them", Gemma Fenton, Purchasing Assistant, Aisin Europe Manufacturing.

"Presentation very easy to follow. The Trainer related examples to our situations to help our understanding", Andrea Tomlin, Cost Reduction & Finance Analyst, Aisin Europe Manufacturing.

September 2006 - SCA set to change over with SMEDSCA Packaging Newport specialises in the manufacture of conventional corrugated fibreboard, high quality post-print, die-cut and flat bed packs for customers predominantly in the South West.

Aster was engaged to provide SMED training to Team Leaders and Machine Operators.

"Very Good course, spot on with content, it gave us a good grounding and a map to take the programme forward. Very systematic and structured. Thanks very much", Justin Watts, Conversion Manager.

"Very informative, good useful ideas to take back to the shop floor", Phil Anderson.

"Gave a good insight and I can see the benefits of implementing the course contents. I thoroughly enjoyed the training course", Andrew McManus, Team Leader.

"Informative, useful, lots of new ideas", Mark Burrows, Operator.

"Well Presented", Paul Wilkins, Team Leader.

"Very Good", I got some good ideas out of the course", Nigel Bartlett, Business Improvement Engineer.

"I was a bit sceptical at first but the course was very good and I thoroughly enjoyed it", Malcolm Bolton.

"Very enjoyable", Tony Pope.

August 2006 - NHS use Aster's Negotiation Courses Bury, Tameside & Glossop PCT Lift project team has recently used the services of Aster to provide negotiation training to a range of their experts including legal, valuations, finance, technical and project management personnel.

"It was useful to open the dialogue internally as to how we will deal with the negotiations for our project", Wendy Williamson.

"I found this to be a clear, concise workshop providing me with a useful framework for going into a negotiation situation. I will definitely refer back to it on a regular basis and will recommend the course to other companies", Mike Woodhead.

August 2006 - Watson Fuels to further promote their business

Testimonials received from the delegates who recently attended the marketing training provided by Aster at Brinkworth, the Headquarters of Watson Fuels included:-

"Paul's style was very relaxed and provided a basis for group discussion to help with the introduction of a professional marketing strategy for our business to support our growth plans", Tony Watson, Managing Director.

"A well structured course where the course tutor held the attention of the delegates and kept us focussed on relevant topics", R.J. Penfold, Depot Manager.

" Very Good Course, good mix of practical and theory", Andrew Watson, ICT Director.

" A very good and informative course, best day spent on marketing. Made me feel very focussed on the future and what I can do to support the company's growth plans", Steve Mizen, Depot Manager.

"Very professional and friendly", Ian Taylor, Wigan Depot Manager.

"Internet information and discussion enlightening", Bill Wallworth, Depot Manager.

"Thoroughly interesting and good-humoured - the day flew by! Lianne Young, Lundie Marketing.

July 2006 - TPM Training a success for Weir Materials Weir Foundry & Materials engaged Aster to provide TPM Training for its Production Management and Maintenance Management teams. Stan Hebdon, Technical Manager of Weir Foundry and Materials stated "I have had a lot of positive feedback following the course, thanks for you help, it is greatly appreciated".

July 2006 - Perkins Engines - SMED Training Aster recently completed the first of a series of planned SMED training events at the Perkins Peterborough based facility. Some of the testimonials received were as follows:-

"Excellent Course, Good Fun and Well Presented", John McCrudden, Manufacturing Engineering Supervisor.

"An interesting and well structured course with good examples used to re-enforce SMED methodologies", Chris Baty-Symes, Senior Manufacturing Engineering Manager.

"Excellent general lean knowledge", Rob Elks, 6 Sigma Black Belt.

"Well presented and good inter-personal skills involving the whole class for the whole day", Alan Purdy, Production Engineer.

"Had a great day, enjoyed the presenter and content, a worthwhile course to attend", Gary Gavies, 6 Sigma Green Belt.

"Paul has a fabulous presenting style - he engages his audience", Philip Oldfield, Production Engineer.

June 2006 - Mitsubishi Electric - Team Leader Training

Aster recently completed a one day Team Leader training course at Mitsubishi Electric in Milton Keynes. Feedback received included comments from Sandra Kemp, Team Leader who stated that it was a "Very friendly and Professional course, Thank You for the advice".

June 2006 - RPC Containers - 5S and 7 Wastes

We conducted a two day 5S and 7 Wastes training course on the Blackburn site of RPC Containers. RPC are one of Europe's leading manufacturers of rigid plastic products and the Blackburn site is primarily involved with the process of injection moulding, labelling and printing on plastics. Delegates included staff from a range of shift patterns to enable the training programme to lead to a consistent 5S roll out across the facility. As part of the course a red-tagging exercise was carried out to demonstrate the benefits of the SORT process. Some of the testimonials received included:

"Well presented and professionally run", Lee Walsh, Machine Setter.

"The course was very good but was also fun", Sharon Hatton, Label Minder.

"Very Interesting and informative. The trainer certainly knew his stuff", Lynn Worth, Packer

"Very educational, useful, interesting and enjoyable, Julie Giles, Machine Operator.

June 2006 - Lean Office in Copenhagen Aster was commissioned to run a Lean Office course for Capacent A/S in Copenhagen, Denmark. Capacent, a privately owned consulting company were recently acquired by an Icelandic business from the KPMG advisory division in Denmark.

The course was attended by 14 senior managers, senior consultants and consultants. Some of the comments received were as follows:-

"A very systematic and logical course with clear explanations", Stefan Schaper, Senior Consultant.

"A well structured programme. A coherent consultant who utilised a methodology that has clearly been used in real life situations", Christen Obel, Manager.

"Paul is a very enjoyable, enthusiastic and knowledgeable lecturer. The pre-course experience with Aster Training has been very professional", Rasmus Kalsoft, Senior Consultant.

May 2006 - Introduction to Lean Manufacturing

Our latest open course was conducted at the REGUS offices in Milton Keynes on 9th-10th May 2006. Some of the testimonials received following the course included:

"The course was perfect and better than predicted. The training was practically based, informative and user friendly. I have enjoyed the two days and will now be able to put it into practice. My career will benefit from this training. Thanks". JP Cronje, Production Manager, La Fornaiia Ltd.

"A very good and well presented course conducted by someone who knew what he was talking about. I believe this topic

should be tried (at least) by everyone", Alphonso Amaral, Project Manager, La Fornaia Ltd

"I enjoyed it very much", Lieb Nel, Cell Leader, Niftylift.

"I enjoyed the course, I found it very interesting and thought provoking. I am now keen to get on and start a lean programme", John Wells, Engineering Manager.

April 2006 - Negotiation Skills Training proving very popular Aster's negotiation skills training course continues to prove very popular amongst companies from all backgrounds. The most recent course in April 2006 was attended by delegates from the manufacturing, service and distribution sectors. Some of the testimonials received following the course were as follows:

"This was my second course with Aster and Paul Wilson the course tutor. Once again I was very impressed with the course in its entirety. It was delivered in a friendly and engaging way - excellent service", Tracey Barnicott, Product Manager, DEMCO.

"I was very happy with the way the course was conducted, it was detailed and very engaging", Nadia Buchlakova, Janikin Rooke.

"An enjoyable day packed full of information", Brian Marsh, Purchasing Manager, Magiglo.

April 2006 - Edmond Shipway use Aster for HR Training Edmond Shipway, a Nottinghamshire based construction consultancy has recently used Aster to provide HR for Line Managers training. Testimonials arising from the course include "A very informative course", Stephen Bostock, Associate. "Well presented using a conversational style which covered all the essential statutory requirements and obligations", Patrick Mayfield, Associate Partner.

January 2006 - MOD engage with Lean Office Aster recently completed a Lean Office training course for the Ministry of Defence. Some of the testimonials received are highlighted below:

"Very Good, Great experience analogies, I think the office world would benefit a great deal", Lean Support Tutor.

"I liked the use of colour within the course material and I was also very impressed with the slides. A very good trainer who kept my full attention with his good tone of voice and delivery style", Research Training Assistant.

"A common sense course, 5S and 8 Wastes particularly interesting", Lean Tutor.

December 2005 - 5S Training course Aster recently delivered a 5S & 7 Wastes training course in Milton Keynes. Some of the testimonials received are presented below.

"The tutor had a good knowledge of the subject and its implementation and put this to good effect by how he put the topic across", Glyn Tomkins, Quality Assurance Manager.

"I came from Yorkshire to Milton Keynes for a 9am start and found the course to be extremely focussed and useful to me", Terry Lane, Operations Manager.

"Very well presented", Maria Forde, Shift Leader.

November 2005 - Latest Lean Testimonials Aster Training delivered its latest open Introduction to Lean Manufacturing Training Course on 21st-22nd November at the REGUS offices in Milton Keynes. Feedback from the course included the following comments:-

"A very enjoyable course delivered by a knowledgeable trainer. Well prepared with good resources and materials", Kevin Eldin, Programme Manager, Cornwall College. "Excellent explanation of the lean journey detailing the tools required and how and when to use them", Andy Phillips, Cornwall College, St Austell.

"A good course that added value and an insight into how changes can be made. I will be implementing changes to my company following this course", April Lacey, Cell Controller, Aeroflex International Ltd.

"The course was a really good overview of lean manufacturing techniques, very worthwhile, Marcus Rock, Project Manager, ABB Ltd.

"Very good and useful information gathered, just what I was looking for as we are ramping up current production levels and I am looking to operate more efficiently", Leigh Gordon, Production Manager, Sigma Aldrich Ltd.

"A very good introduction to the main elements of lean manufacturing", Steve Johnson, Asst Production Manager, MRP Electronics plc.

November 2005 - Tyco Electronics to utilise 5SAster has recently completed the first stage of a two stage process at the

Tyco Electronics plant in Bideford, North Devon. The first part involved training the Tyco 5S implementation team. Some of the comments received from the managers and supervisors from the Bideford team are highlighted below.

"The course was excellent and I am unable to suggest any improvement", Viv Harries.
 "Very interesting and enjoyable, I will look forward to implementing this on our site", Kwame Taylor.
 "Excellent content, the trainer presented very well. A very interesting course", Lindy Cady.
 "Very Good, I would like this course rolled out to more members of staff", Dave Bowden.
 "Very enlightening, refreshed my appetite for improvement within the plant", Alan Mckenzie.
 "Very good informative course with practical games to illustrate the principles", Richard Squires.
 "Particularly enjoyed the practical demonstrations", Ken Baker.
 "Excellent course, combined technical knowledge and practical exercises", Steve Heywood.
 "Good Trainer, very good knowledge of the subject and well taught to the group", Steve Kilner.
 "The practical tasks used explained good use of the lean tools", Steve Dibble, Production Engineer.
 "Excellent presented", Dave Miller, Tool Maintenance Supervisor.
 "Very good use of practical example", Dave Chick, Procurement Specialist.
 "An excellent course that all employees should attend", Frank Bosworth, Shift Leader.
 "Very enjoyable course, very knowledgeable trainer", Andrew Bennett, Senior Quality Engineer.
 "The Course was a real "eye-opener" and very well presented", John Warren, Shift Leader.
 "Enjoyable and very well presented", Ian Benstead, Shift Leader.

November 2005 - Element Six and 5S & 7 Wastes Training

Aster has recently completed a 5S and 7 Wastes training programme for the manufacturing department of Element Six, the world's leading supplier of high quality superabrasives and industrial diamond materials, including both diamond and the complementary superabrasive cubic boron nitride (cBN).

Comments received following the courses were as follows:-

"This is essential training for all those interested in continuous improvement", Keith Barratt.
 "Having never worked in a manufacturing environment before, I found the course not only easy to follow but helpful in my understanding of the production ethos", Dominic Higgins.
 "The practical demonstrations gave clear examples of how to implement 5S. I thoroughly enjoyed this course", Simon Tough.

It was very good to see how the practical sessions were used to demonstrate the theory".

October 2005 - Integra Neurosciences implement 5SA number of delegates from Andover based Integra Neurosciences recently completed our 5S & 7 Wastes training course. Some of the comments received are highlighted below.

"The trainer made to topic very easy to understand", Carole Dodson, Production Operator.
 "The trainer was very good", Maureen Clark, Production Operator.
 "When questions were asked I felt that all issues were treated with equal importance and time was taken to make sure we all understood the responses", Ian Stapleton, Production Supervisor.
 September 2005 - FOSROC implement Lean Manufacturing

FOSROC the manufacturer of electro-chemical concrete repair solutions engaged Aster to provide lean manufacturing training. Some of the feedback we received following this course included:-

"Fantastic and very enjoyable. My Fridge is full of food for thought", Tony Garner, Financial Controller, UK & Eire.
 "Excellent detailed introduction to Lean Manufacturing, especially the case studies", Steve Hutt, Manufacturing Manager.
 "Well presented, some interesting opportunities lie ahead", Brian Bailey, Manufacturing Engineer.
 "Very Informative, clearly explained course", Terry Pillinger, Production Team Leader.

"I enjoyed the lean manufacturing course very much indeed. I realised its simplicity for the first time", Gill Price, Warehouse & Distribution Manager.

September 2005 - 5S and 7 Wastes Testimonials

JST are a 'Full Service' supplier of electrical/electronic terminals and connectors. Simon Andrews, Senior Quality Engineer commented about this course "Very good practical examples used in the course highlighting key points within the course content".

Greencore Group plc is a major international manufacturer and supplier of food ingredients and prepared foods.

Wayne Woollass, Continuous Improvement Manager stated, "Good role plays showed what can be achieved by implementing 5S".

Kirsty Lythgoe, a member of Greencore's continuous improvement team when asked how this course could be improved

stated, "I came out with all of the information required in the detail I needed to implement 5S in my own factory. The working examples used in the course were not only fun but an excellent way of understanding the key points from the 5S and 7 Wastes course".

August 2005 - FOSROC negotiate improved terms with Aster

Fosroc engaged Aster Training to provide in house Practical Negotiation Skills training to a number of their key staff. Steve Hutt, Operations Manager at Fosroc and one of the delegates commented, "This is a very good practical course" and Tony Colbourne, IT Manager thought it was a "Great Course". Fosroc supplies specialist chemicals to the construction industry.

June 2005 - Testimonial from Marshall Amplification

Aster has recently completed a series of training courses for Marshall Amplification plc. Following completion of these courses we received a testimonial from Nikki Clark, Purchasing Manager. Nikki stated "The Purchasing and Stores function at Marshall Amplification plc selected Aster Training as our training provider after reviewing various other training companies. This was primarily due to the interactive programme offered and recognition of various skill levels and requirements of our team. Paul Wilson at Aster Training is a very friendly, clear and precise tutor who made the sessions easy to understand and kept the interest going.

The courses were very informative, involving interactive games and off site scenario training for negotiation skills. All members of the team involved said they enjoyed their sessions with Paul and I would certainly use Aster Training in the future and highly recommend them to other organisations looking for in-house training on Team Management, Purchasing and Stores skills".

May 2005 - Introduction to Marketing Training

Aster Training was selected to provide marketing training to Demco Worldwide. Demco is the market leader in library design and supplies.

"I found the course very interesting and was able to recognise my own experiences throughout. I also felt I was engaged from start to finish", Tracey Barnicott, Product Manager.

"Thoroughly informative and broken down in such a way that it made it easy to remember. Also the trainer brought some humour to the course to make it that bit more enjoyable", Stuart Greenaway, Data Administrator.

"It was very interesting to learn the meaning of phrases I had heard of but didn't understand. Easy to understand and very helpful", Angela Podd, Product Marketing Assistant.

"A lot of information was presented most of which was beneficial. The trainer was very good and helped me to understand the overall picture of the marketing role within an organisation, Thanks, Gina Georgiou, Product Marketing Assistant.

April 2005 - Introduction to Purchasing Training Course

H&R Global Special Products has a global presence and develops and markets innovative products and services at the leading edge of technology. H&R has a distinctive green agenda, a world-class safety record, an ambitious programme for growth and a diverse and highly-skilled staff.

Paul Darwin, European Procurement Manager of H&R ESP Ltd stated "I thoroughly enjoyed the day, more than I expected to be honest! I could relate the training to many scenarios in my own role and I feel it has given me good grounding to work with. Each topic was well explained with a wide range of examples to support. Something I found particularly useful was the negotiation training which involved some good tactics I am looking forward to using. I'd definitely recommend this course to anyone who is looking to develop their Purchasing skills and knowledge".

LBJ Fabrications Limited is a private limited company engaged in the manufacture and installation of architectural louvers, air handling and noise control equipment.

Neal Corbett, Purchasing Supervisor, LBJ Fabrications Ltd stated "Overall I found the course gave me a good understanding of basic purchasing requirements. Coming from a small company not all the parts of the course were relevant to me, but I did pick up some useful ideas which we will use within our company in the coming months".

April 2005- Kingfield engage Aster to provide Sales Training

Kingfield Electronics in Chesterfield has engaged Aster Training to provide mentoring and coaching training to their sales staff. Aster Training will be working with Kingfield on a number of topics including market research, web-site development/optimisation together with hard/soft selling skills. Aster Interim Solutions will also be providing an Interim Manager to support the growth plans of Kingfield.

March 2005 - Aster train Darby Glass staff in Lean

The Darby Group plc is the leading independent processor of glass in the UK, working from nine sites to provide national coverage to their customers. After attending one of our lean manufacturing training courses, Duncan Riley, Continuous Improvement Co-ordinator for Darby Glass commented "Enjoyable, practical business games helped in understanding the topic".

Lisa Wilson, Director of Aster Training commented, "We are often complimented on the practical methods we use to train the lean manufacturing principles". Being able to demonstrate the theory in a common sense practical way is very important because it allows our delegates to visualise how improvements could be made in their own working environments.

March 2005 - GEEST remove 'waste' from their processes

GEEST plc, one of the leading fresh prepared foods and produce companies in the UK has engaged Aster to carry out Value Stream Mapping training for a selection of their management team The training which is to be carried out in March 2005 is aimed at eliminating or reducing 'waste' within the GEEST value streams.

This training programme will represent the third time in the past six months Aster has been invited to supply training to this market leader in the food sector.

February 2005 - Aster tender for Ford Lean Programme

Aster has been selected as one of companies to tender for the Ford Lean Learning Training Programme. If successful, Aster will be required to provide lean implementation training at one of Ford's UK manufacturing plants.

Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster Interim Solutions enthused, "This is further evidence of how far our company has come in a very short space of time. We were very pleased to receive the invitation to tender and will deliver our proposal in the Aster way - thoroughly professional and with added value for the client".

December 2004 - Danfoss Randall employ lean tools

Aster Training will be providing lean manufacturing training for the manufacturing team at Bedford based Danfoss Randall in January 2005. Based in Bedford, Danfoss Randall Ltd is one of the country's leading manufacturers of domestic and commercial heating controls.

November 2004 - Aster train office based staff in lean

Milton Keynes based access platform manufacturer, Niftylift has selected Aster Interim Solutions to roll out lean manufacturing principles throughout their office areas. Lisa Wilson, director of Aster Interim stated "A lot of people forget that creating a lean enterprise is a company wide initiative. Our role will be to train office based staff such as design engineers in lean tools and techniques so that waste can be eliminated right from the design phase. Niftylift are a forward thinking business and we are very pleased to have been offered this opportunity to work with them.

November 2004 - GEEST go lean with the help of Aster

Aster have been selected to carry out lean manufacturing training at one of GEEST's UK facilities. Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster Interim Solutions stated, "We recently carried out some lean training for GEEST and as a result of the positive recommendation we received from the attendees, Aster has been selected to help roll out the lean programme in to one of their Lincolnshire based factories . I think this is a testimony to the quality of our courses and we are very pleased to have been offered this opportunity"

David Long, Group Human Resources Manager at GEEST plc takes up the story " I was personally looking to improve my own knowledge of Lean Manufacturing as part of my role is to champion the continuous improvement activities from a HR perspective for GEEST plc. Having now gone on the lean workshop with Aster, it came over as very easy to understand, extremely relevant content and a programme that would benefit a significant proportion of our production management team. As a consequence of that, we have decided to run a pilot in-house programme at one of our bigger

sites using Aster as our trainers. Hopefully, if this works out, the intention would be to run a number of others. We would certainly recommend the Aster programme".

October 2004 - Aster facilitate FMEA training for local engineering company

Aster training has been selected to facilitate the introduction of Failure Mode Effect Analysis (FMEA) for local engineering company, Belsize Engineering, through its associate network. FMEA widely used throughout the automotive sector is used to identify defect conditions and their causes to prevent re-occurrences.

October 2004 - Aster win training contract from the "Sound of Rock" Company

Aster Training has won a contract to provide refresher training in purchasing skills for the Marshall Amplifications plc materials team. Established for over 40 years, Marshall's design and manufacture amplifier and professional public address systems for the music industry.

Nikki Clark, Marshall Amplification's Purchasing Manager stated, "We looked at a number of training providers but felt that Aster offered the best overall package. They had listened to our requirements and provided training modules which focused on developing our staff as both individuals and as a team".

October 2004 - Lean Manufacturing course testimonials

Aster Training held a Lean Manufacturing workshop at Cranfield University on 12th-13th October 2004. Here are some of the testimonials from the delegates who attended:-

"A brilliant course, very enjoyable -thanks", Martin Cross, Niftylift.

"Practically the entire course was relevant to the needs of our business, Ten out of Ten", Andy Wagstaff, DCC Electronics.

"Excellent visual slides and course notes, Wayne Goodger, Niftylift.

"The course was very enjoyable; I'm trying to persuade our MD to send some of our Production Engineers next time. The course has demonstrated to me the benefits of Lean Manufacturing and I believe that I will be able to transfer the knowledge that I have gained into benefits for the Company and its employees. The mix of practical demonstrations, excellent course notes and the theory of Lean Techniques clearly demonstrated the advantages of implementing Lean Manufacturing, and I am very keen to start the journey". Mark West, Production Manager, MRP Electronics plc

"Extremely relevant content and a programme that would benefit a significant proportion of our production management team. As a consequence of that, we have decided to run a pilot in-house programme at one of our bigger sites using Aster as our trainers. We would certainly recommend the Aster programme", David Long, Group Human Resources Manager, GEEST plc.

September 2004 - Marketing Training Course Testimonials

"I recently attended Aster's 'Introduction to Marketing Course'. I had had some formal training in marketing before enrolling on this course but was pleasantly surprised by the content which was thought provoking, very interesting and presented in a way which I could relate to in my own company. This will no doubt help me through my marketing role; I have learnt some extra tips. The tasks we carried out as part of the course were such a good idea as they made you think as a marketer which made the course so interesting. I would definitely recommend this course to others interested in finding out more about the practical side of marketing", Maribel Coles, Marketing Assistant, Shaw & Co.

"I have just attended the 'Introduction to Marketing Course'. I found the course to be excellent value and taught me a number of things I will be able to apply in my everyday role. I would highly recommend this course to anyone involved in the day to day marketing of their organisation". Craig Lesser, Business Development Manager, Skillnet.

August 2004 - Kanban Training for two market leaders

Aster Training has been chosen to provide Kanban training to both Goodyear and PG Drives Technology.

Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster Interim Solutions stated, "We are delighted to have been selected by two such prestigious companies to provide Kanban training to their materials/planning teams.

"The course was an undoubted success. Following our training by Aster, we now have two Kanban projects planned for

October/November of this year". John Petkevicius, Planning Manager, Goodyear.

July 2004 - Aster win Lean Manufacturing contract

Delta Impact (www.deltaimpact.co.uk), the Berkshire based supply chain management specialists for electronics manufacturers have engaged the services of Aster Interim Solutions in their drive to re-enforce the Lean culture that has been fundamental to their success over recent years. Martin Cox, Managing Director of Delta Impact commented, "We feel it is vital to the continuous development of our business that we benchmark ourselves against best practise in industry on a regular basis. We have selected Aster Interim Solutions to provide the 'refresher' lean training because of their involvement with companies across a number of sectors and because we were impressed with their people and knowledge.

Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster Interim Solutions stated, "We provide both interim management and training services to companies in the UK industrial sector. We are delighted to be working with such a forward thinking company as Delta Impact. They have demonstrated to date their clear understanding of 'added value' solutions for their customers. Our role is to work with them to further develop their unique business model".

March 2004 - Aster awarded Centre of Expertise in Manufacturing status by the DTI MAS

Aster has been awarded the prestigious status of a "Centre for Expertise in Manufacturing" by the Department of Trade & Industry Manufacturing Advisory Service. This status recognises the contribution Aster, its principals & associates have made to the manufacturing sector. Our details will now be included on the national network web-site at www.mas.dti.gov.uk