

## Latest News

### July 2010 - Associate Lean Trainers

Aster is looking to work with freelance associate trainers able to deliver its lean courses. If you think you have the necessary skills please provide your CV and a detailed resume of lean projects/achievements to Paul Wilson at [enquiries@aster-training.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aster-training.co.uk).

### February 2010 - Distance Learning

Aster launched a range of distance learning courses in 2010. We are intending to release more courses in distance learning format over the coming months. December 2009 - New Courses for 2010

Every year Aster tries to introduce a new set of courses for delegates. Each year we think we have covered most of the main training topics and yet our clients continue to challenge us with requests for more courses.

In 2010 we will be launching two new sets of courses. The first set will be IT skills with the provision of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Database courses and the second one will be Languages for Business. The first language course we will introduce will be Mandarin. November 2009 - Recession prompts a strategic re-think

When recessions bite, training providers and recruitment and selection companies are often the first to suffer as organisations look to curb spending in an effort to reduce costs. However as Aster specialises in many business improvement courses we have seen an increase in business in this area. Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster comments, "Many organisations have had to 'think' their way out of recession. Of course one of the ways of doing this is to take a close look at all your processes and remove the waste and this is where Aster can help. We are not out of the woods yet as a nation but hopefully we have turned the corner and 2010 will be a more prosperous year for all.

Aster provides a range of business improvement courses from Six Sigma and Lean to Sales & Marketing. May 2009 - PRINCE2 Training Courses

In association with an accredited PRINCE2 training organisation, Aster are now able offer a range of PRINCE2 training courses to its clients including Foundation, Conversion and Practitioner level courses. March 2009 - Six Years On.....

Aster celebrates its sixth birthday in March 2009. Despite the economic climate appearing uncertain Aster has returned continued growth throughout the past six months and has gained market share on many corporate training companies over the period. Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster states, "We recognise that the training sector is under pressure at present and as a result have tailored our services accordingly to ensure that every pound spent with Aster on training brings value for money. We have purposely sought out and found some of the best trainers throughout the UK. This has enabled us to grow our business not only through our marketing activities but also by personal recommendation. All you need to do is look at our testimonials to realise that our trainers are not only knowledgeable on their specialist subjects but that they also deliver our courses in a passionate, charismatic and fun and enjoyable way".

### November 2008 - Aster announce Webinar Programme

Aster will be providing short training courses via Webinars from January 2009. Lisa Wilson, Director states, "We get so many enquiries from english speaking countries that it makes commercial sense to develop our own webinar series of training courses. Aster will focus initially on developing webinars for its lean manufacturing training courses but will roll out the webinar programme across other topics throughout 2009".

### October 2008 - Aster continues to Grow

Aster continues to buck the trend in the recruitment and training sectors. Year on year sales are up by over 45% on 2007 figures. Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster comments, "The figures reflect the amount of work our staff have put into both market our products and services and the skills they have deployed to satisfy customer requirements.

Our business model is built upon exceptional customer service. This can be ably demonstrated by the amount of repeat business we win. Thank you to all Aster staff". October 2008 - Six Sigma Certification Programme

In response to requests made from our clients Aster has launched a Green and Black Belt Six Sigma certification programme. Lisa Wilson, Director of Aster states, "This was always a natural extension of our six sigma training programmes. The certification programme is designed to ensure that delegates attending our class room training sessions provide real value for money for their organisations when initiating and leading six sigma projects.

### August 2008 - Aster win order from global packaging company

Aster Training has been selected from a host of European based training providers to deliver negotiation skills and purchasing training courses to one of worlds largest packaging solutions companies. The training programme will be delivered in Paris, France in September 2008 and will have delegates from up to 25 different countries participating in the event.

#### July 2008 - Inaugural Lean User Group Meeting

Aster held its first Lean User Group meeting on 10th July 2008 at Du Pont in Suffolk. The day was a tremendous success and the next event is planned for 7th October 2008 at another lean user group member's site.

If you would like to become a member of the group click on the link to the lean user group for further details.

#### June 2008 - Aster announce Lean Awards Programme

Aster will present two new Lean awards in January 2009. The awards will be presented in the following categories:-

- Lean Factory of the Year 2008
- Lean Business of the Year 2008

Paul Wilson, MD of Aster Training stated, "At Aster we care passionately about making UK industry more competitive by working &smarter not harder&rsquo; and are resolute in defending both our manufacturing and service industries against offshore competition. If we can encourage organisations of all shapes and sizes to take part in this scheme we will be going some way to making our indigenous businesses more competitive.

#### May 2008 - Northern Hi-Tec work with Aster

Aster are specialists within the electronic manufacturing services sector. As a result it is no surprise that some of the UK's most visionary contractors turn to Aster for support.

Formed in 1983, Northern Hi-Tec Ltd is one of the UK's leading electronic manufacturing service providers. They are amongst a select group of UK based contract electronic manufacturers able to offer both electronic design consultancy and full turnkey electronic manufacturing services from concept to delivery - all under one roof.

Aster will be providing lean training and consultancy to Northern Hi-Tec as their business manages the expansion arising from their very successful business model.

#### May 2008 - Aster selected to provide Lean Training

Milton Keynes based Aster Training has been selected to provide a series of lean training courses to Chesterfield based Kingfield Electronics Ltd. Kingfield is one of the UK's most progressive contract electronics manufacturers specialising in full turnkey box build electronic products.

#### April 2008 - Aster forms Lean User Group

In response to feedback received following our lean training courses from clients, Aster launched a Lean User Group in April 2008.

The objective of the user group will be to allow companies the opportunity and forum to network with other organisations to discuss best lean practice, joint problem solving, possible business co-operation and other lean ideas to make their businesses more competitive.

Events planned include:-

- Open factory visits &ndash; where a member company will open their facility for other companies to visit
- Lean Seminars (free to members) - presented by members for the benefit of other members
- Dinners & other social gatherings
- Lean Organisation of the Year Awards
- Guest Speakers from the lean community within the UK

If you would like further information about how to join the Aster Lean Users Group, click [here](#)

#### March 2008 - Paul Martin joins Aster Training team

Master Black Belt, Paul Martin has joined Aster Trainings associate team and will be the lead trainer for Asters Six Sigma Training Programme. Paul Wilson, MD of Aster Training stated, "We are very pleased to have secured the services of one of the UK's leading six sigma trainers.

#### January 2008 - Aster to add Six Sigma Training to Portfolio

In 2008, Aster Training will build upon its successful lean practice by incorporating a range of Six Sigma training courses. This will comprise a comprehensive set of training courses from an introduction level course all the way through the 'belt' structure. This will in time will lead to a lean-sigma set of courses for those advocates which are able to derive most added value out of these two continuous improvement tool kits.

#### November 2007 - New Training Disciplines for 2008

Aster had added new disciplines to its training portfolio each and every year it has been trading. In 2008 Aster will be launching two new packages of training in the form of First Aid Training and Finance Training as well as building upon its already established Sales and Marketing offering.

Lisa Wilson, Business Support Director of Aster comments, "Aster is rapidly becoming one of the main players in the corporate training market within the UK. Our clients tell us that they would prefer to deal with one company for all of their training requirements and in Aster they see a company which aspires to this goal".

#### October 2007 - Aster reports significant Growth

Over the last financial year Aster recorded growth of 27%. The business has been very successful in attracting and retaining clients across a wide spectrum of disciplines and industry sectors. Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster Training states, "We have continued to grow our training business in both the UK and Western Europe.

Last financial year saw the introduction of our e-commerce web-site which has resulted in significant new sales in North America, Africa and Australasia. We are very pleased with progress over the last year and hope shortly to announce some new business deals which will allow us to further penetrate the European and North American market".

#### June 2007 - Aster launch Telesales Training

Aster will be launching additional sales training courses in the second half of 2007. This is in direct response to significant customer demand for these courses. The first course, telesales training will be launched in September 2007.

#### May 2007 - Bacardi select Aster for 5S Leadership Training

Bacardi has selected Aster Training to provide 5S Leadership Training. Aster will carry out the training at their Glasgow HQ in June 2007. May 2007 - Aster to support National Energy Foundation Aster Training is to provide support to the National Energy Foundation (NEF) <http://www.nef.org.uk/> in the provision of a range of sustainable energy training programmes commencing in July 2007. Paul Wilson, Director of Aster commented, "We are delighted to have been chosen by the NEF to provide support for their range of courses. Organisations like the NEF have brought to our attention the importance of renewable energy issues on both a local and national level. Aster is keen to support the programme by further helping to promote these worthwhile initiatives". For further information on environmental courses, contact Paul Wilson on (01296) 720281. May 2007 - Lean Simulation Games prove popular

Aster introduced two lean manufacturing simulation games in 2006. Both games have proven very successful both at home and abroad. Export orders have been received from both the USA and South Africa. Paul Wilson, Director of Aster stated, "We knew when we launched these products that there was a market for this type of training aid but the demand has left us pleasantly surprised. For more information about the two games available click on the link lean games.

#### March 2007 - Aster e-commerce site goes live

The new look Aster e-commerce site is now live. This site encompasses lots of new features including the ability to order on line, buy a wider selection of new training materials and games and will shortly have the ability to download courses directly to your desktop.

#### March 2007 - Supervisory Skills for Staff in Theatre Land

Aster has been selected to provide Basic Supervisory Skills training for staff at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Welcoming audiences averaging almost 500,000 per year, Birmingham Hippodrome can lay claim to the highest regular annual attendance of any single theatre in the country.

#### March 2007 - Poka Yoke or Mistake Proofing!

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, Tokheim offers customers a complete range of fuel dispensers and pumps, retail automation systems, payment terminals, media devices, replacement parts and upgrade kits.

Tokheim has selected Aster to provide a Poka Yoke Skills training course at its Dundee based facility.

February 2007 - Aster to provide Health & Safety Training

We are pleased to announce that from June 2007, Aster will be providing a range of Health and Safety courses throughout the UK in conjunction with our CIEH registered training partner. Courses on offer will include:

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)

- CIEH Level 2 award in Health and Safety in the workplace
- CIEH Risk Assessment Principles and Practice
- CIEH Principles of Coshh (1/2 day)
- CIEH Principles of Manual Handling (1/2 day)

DAL courses

- Control of Contractors
- Safety for Managers
- Office Safety and the use of Display Screen Equipment (1/2 day)

Fork Lift Truck (FLT) Training

- Reach and Counterbalance trucks only (up to 5 tonne)
- Novice (no experience) - 4 day course
- Semi experience - 2 days
- Refresher for experienced operator - 1 day

If you would like further information about courses, venues or planned dates, please do not hesitate to contact us.

December 2006 - Kingfield Heath choose Aster

Aster has been selected to provide negotiation skills training to the commodity teams at Kingfield Heath.

Kingfield Heath are wholesale distributors supplying on a 'trade only' basis to office supplies dealers and resellers throughout the UK and ROI..

The company operates from 9 warehouses, including a state of the art Central Warehouse at Magna Park, near Leicester, and is supported by a Head Office in Sheffield. December 2006 - Hale Products engage Aster Training

Hale Products, the Warwick based fire pump manufacturer has chosen Aster to supplement progress they have made to date by value stream mapping their main business processes.

Paul Wilson of Aster Training stated, "Hale has made really impressive progress, Aster has been engaged to identify further potential Kaizen opportunities by taking a fresh look from a third party perspective".

December 2006 - Aster Training win repeat business

The NHS has placed repeat business with Aster Training. Tameside & Glossop PCT has selected Aster to provide negotiation skills training for a selection of its managerial staff. This is the second negotiation skills course for the NHS in the past 6 months.

November 2006 - Renault select Aster Training Renault has selected Aster to provide Disciplinary & Grievance Training to staff from a number of their UK based sites. Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster Training stated, "This is further evidence that our HR training practice is gaining further momentum and credibility as a major UK provider of human resources training solutions".

November 2006 - Health & Safety Programme for 2007 Aster Training is in the process of developing a range of Health & Safety courses for 2007. Planned to commence in Q2 2007 these course will be aimed at Facility Managers, Works Managers and Site Managers.

November 2006 - Sturrock Power engage Aster Training Sturrock Power Ltd, the Edinburgh based specialist contracting and maintenance project company, has engaged Aster to provide purchasing skills training to its procurement team.

October 2006 - Market leaders select Aster Specsavers, the UK's most trusted optician, contact lens and glasses retailer and has selected Aster to provide a range of team leader and supervisory skills training for its staff.

Alcatel is the major driving force behind broadband Britain. The company's wide range of communication technologies are changing perceptions of global broadband highways. Aster has been selected to provide both Lean Manufacturing and Supervisory Skills training.

October 2006 - Aster to set up e-commerce site  
Aster will be setting up an e-commerce site from the beginning of December 2006. Customers will be able to purchase a range of products on line from that time.

Training Courses will be able available in either CD/DVD format as well as being able to download them directly from our web-site. In addition, we will be offering a wide range of lean manufacturing products via our Lean Shop including the following:-

- 5S Red Tags
- 5S Posters
- 5S Audit Forms
  
- 7 Wastes Posters
- SMED Checklists
- 5S Simulation Games
- Lean Manufacturing Simulation Games
- Lean Office Simulation Games
- SMED Simulation Games
  
- TPM Tags
  
- A Lean 'Health-Check' for you to test your own company's lean credentials.

September 2006 - HR for Line Managers & Hughes

Milton Keynes based Hughes Network Systems has chosen Aster to provide HR training for its line managers. Commencing in October 2006 this training will be designed to make managers aware of their roles and responsibilities with regards to existing and new legislation and legal requirements.

September 2006 - Crown Aerosols select Aster for SMED

Sutton in Ashfield based Crown Aerosols has selected Aster to provide staff with on-site SMED training. Paul Wilson, MD of Aster commented, "We are delighted to have been chosen by Crown to provide single minute exchange of dies support to their business. Our SMED course is recognised as one of the best in the UK and our practical, flexible approach to training this lean tool has led to Aster receiving this order.

September 2006 - Xyratex place order with Aster  
Aster has been selected to carry out 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. Building on over 20 years of research and development experience in disk drive development, storage systems and high-speed communication protocols, they design and manufacture enabling technology that provides OEM and disk drive manufacturer customers with data storage products to support high-performance storage and data communication networks.

August 2006 - 5S & 7 Wastes Training for Grampian Foods

Aster has been chosen to provide 5S and 7 Wastes training to a team of staff at their Malton, North Yorkshire facility.

Grampian Foods is the UK's leading privately owned agri-food business producing frozen chicken, pork, beef, lamb and turkey products for the retail and food service sectors.

August 2006 - Bury PCT choose to negotiate with Aster  
Bury Primary Care Trust LIFT project team has selected Aster to provide negotiation skills training for their managers.

August 2006 - Raychem choose Aster for 5S Training  
Wiltshire based Raychem has selected Aster to provide 5S training to its workforce in Swindon. This follows a very successful training programme for their Tyco Electronics sister company in Bideford.

July 2006 - Watson Fuels engage Aster Training  
Wiltshire based Watson Fuels is a major supplier to agriculture, industry and domestic households of fuels and lubricants. Aster Training has been chosen to provide marketing training for a range of staff from depot managers to company directors.

July 2006 - SCA Packaging select Aster for SMED Training

SCA Packaging is Europe's leader in corrugated packaging and related products. Aster Training has been selected to provide SMED training to one of its UK based facilities.

July 2006 - Aster launches Lean Simulation Games Aster will be launching two lean simulation games in July 2006. The games have been designed to demonstrate the significant benefits introducing lean manufacturing techniques can make to the factory and office respectively.

In the first lean manufacturing simulation game, participants assemble real products in a 'push' factory before transitioning to a future state where flow and pull have replaced push. Designed for up to 8 participants, this is an invaluable tool in demonstrating lean methodologies in a fun, informative and thought provoking manner.

The lean business simulation game is one of the few products on the market aimed at highlighting the difference lean management can make in an office environment. Emphasis is placed on the participants understanding the principles of standard work, learning 'how to see' office work units, introducing flow, pull and task levelling.

Contact us at enquiries@aster-training.co.uk for further information on each of the lean simulation games - they will make an ideal addition to your lean implementation tool kit.

June 2006 - TPM Training for the Weir Group Weir Materials and Foundries is a leading supplier of quality steel castings to companies involved in the manufacture of pumps, valves, compressors, turbines, filtration and flow measurement equipment and general engineering components.

Aster will be providing Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) training to the Manchester based team.

June 2006 - Mitsubishi select Aster for Team Leader Training

Aster has been selected to provide Team Leader Training for staff at their Milton Keynes Facility.

June 2006 - Perkins choose Aster for SMED Training Perkins Engines a world leader in the design and manufacture of industrial diesel engines has selected Aster Training to carry out a number of Single Minute Exchange of Die Training (SMED) training sessions for its staff at its UK headquarters based in Peterborough.

May 2006 - RPC Containers select Aster to roll out 5S. The Blackburn division of RPC Containers (Europe's leading supplier of rigid plastic packaging) has selected Aster Training to provide training in 5S and 7 Wastes to their multi-shift operation.

May 2006 - Wonderful Wonderful Copenhagen Aster has been selected to train Capcent A/S, based in Copenhagen, Denmark in Lean Office. Capcent A/S were until February of this year part of KPMG. Capcent, the biggest Icelandic consultancy agency purchased KPMG Advisory and now operate as an independent consultancy with over 90 consultants in Denmark and 120 consultants within a sister Icelandic company IMG. Competencies include: Analysis and evaluation IT-Management Productivity Economic control Project and program management

April 2006 - Practical Negotiation Skills Three further companies have engaged Aster to provide Negotiation Skills Training to their staff.

- Magiglo have been producing an award winning range of gas fires in Broadstairs, Kent, UK for nearly 20 years.

- Janikin Rooke is a specialist group of Resource Solution Providers

- Demco, the UK's leading library design consultancy, specialising in the design, specification installation and project management of library refurbishment and new build projects.

April 2006 - HR for Line Managers Training Edmond Shipway, multi-disciplinary construction consultants has engaged Aster to provide HR for Line Managers Training to their Nottingham based management team.

March 2006 - 5S and 7 Wastes Training Axis Electronics, the Bedfordshire based contract electronics manufacturing company has engaged Aster Training to provide impetus to its entry to the Best Factory Awards 2006. Aster will be providing lean manufacturing training to the Axis staff with particular emphasis on 5S and 7 Wastes training.

January 2006 - The Lean Practice continues to grow....

Aster Training continues to develop its Lean Practice. At the request of several customers further courses have been added to the portfolio for 2006. Orders for Lean courses continue to grow from companies operating across all disciplines and sectors.

December 2005 - Adare Lexicon select Aster for 5S training

Adare Lexicon the transactional mail specialists specialising in handling highly complex print runs including statements, bills, payrolls or statutory notifications has selected Aster Training to carry out 5S & 7 Wastes training for a number of their staff.

November 2005 - Aster to add HR training to portfolio Aster Training will be launching a suite of training courses covering Human Resource topics in early 2006. Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster Training commented, "We will be increasing our portfolio of courses by generating a distinctive brand of HR training. Delivered in the innovative Aster 'house style' where case studies and role plays are used to supplement theory, the first courses will be available from March 2006".

Training Courses will be launched covering the following topics:-

- Appraisal Skills/Performance Management
  - Attendance Management/Absence Management
  - Basic Supervisory Skills
  - Change Management
  - Discipline & Grievance Skills
  - Human Resources for Line Managers
  - Interpersonal Skills
  - Interviewing Skills
  - Presentation Skills
  - Selection & Recruitment
  - Team Building
  - Time Management
  - Train the Trainer
  - Work Life Balance
- November 2005 - Cornwall College sign up for Lean Training

Cornwall college is the leading provider of further education in mid-Cornwall. The college has recently signed up to a package of training courses from Aster on topics such as Lean Manufacturing, Kanban and 5S.

October 2005 - ABB select Aster for Lean Manufacturing ABB, a leader in power and automation technologies has selected Aster Training to provide Lean Manufacturing Training.

The training will take place in November 2005 and represents the second time ABB has engaged Aster in the past 12 months.

October 2005 - MTL Instruments select Aster for 5S Training Headquartered in Luton, England, MTL is a leader in the field of intrinsic safety explosion protection devices, fieldbus technology and surge protection. The group is also committed to developing markets in the field of Open Control Systems for the process control industry.

September 2005 - Integra Neurosciences go Lean Aster Training has been engaged to provide 5S training to the manufacturing areas of Integra Neurosciences' Andover facility. Integra NeuroSciences is a diversified medical technology company that develops, manufactures and markets medical devices. The primary applications for their products are neuro-trauma and neurosurgery, reconstructive surgery, general surgery, and soft tissue repair.

September 2005 - FOSROC to implement Lean FOSROC the manufacturer of electro-chemical concrete repair solutions has engaged Aster to train their lean manufacturing project champions.

September 2005 - UK companies select Aster for 5S Training

J.S.T. (UK) Ltd and Greencore have both selected Aster Training to provide 5S training. JST are a 'Full Service' supplier for the design, manufacture and supply of electrical/electronic terminals and connectors.

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

August 2005 - Tyco Electronics select Aster for 5S Training

Tyco Electronics has engaged Aster Training to provide 5S implementation training to its operations staff at its facility in Bideford, North Devon. Tyco Electronics is the world's leading supplier of electrical and electronic connections and interconnection systems.

August 2005 - Element Six to implement 5S

Aster Training has been selected to provide 5S implementation training to the manufacturing team at Element Six's Ascot facility.

Element Six is the world's leading supplier of high quality superabrasives and industrial diamond materials, including both diamond and the complementary superabrasive cubic boron nitride (cBN).

August 2005 - FOSROC to negotiate with Aster

Fosroc, the Tamworth based manufacturer of electro-chemical concrete repair solutions has engaged Aster to provide negotiation skills training to its procurement and account management staff.

July 2005 &ndash; Aster launches two new web-sitesAs a result of the continued success of both the interim management and training businesses a decision was taken several weeks ago to launch two new web-sites.

Paul Wilson, Managing Director of Aster Interim Solutions takes up the story. &ldquo;The interest in our business services over the past two years has been exceptional and the feedback from our clients very positive. As a result, we have decided to re-enforce both brands by creating two separate web-sites, one focussing on interim management and the second on open and in house training courses".

June 2005 &ndash; IPC Training Courses added to portfolioAster will be launching two new training courses in September 2005. The courses designed specifically for the electronics sector will be aimed at providing both basic and advanced soldering skills to IPC standards for clients throughout the UK.

Available exclusively as in house courses, training will be delivered by a qualified IPC training instructor.

May 2005 &ndash; Demco select Aster for Marketing TrainingAster was selected to provide marketing training to Demco Worldwide. Demco is the market leader in library design and supplies.

April 2005 - Introduction to Purchasing TrainingBoth H&R Global Special Projects and LBJ Fabrications Ltd have selected Aster to provide purchasing training for members of their purchasing teams.

H&R Global Special Products has a global presence and develops and markets innovative products and services at the leading edge of technology.

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

April 2005- Kingfield engage Aster for Sales TrainingKingfield Electronics in Chesterfield has engaged Aster Training to provide mentoring and coaching training to their sales staff. Aster will be working with Kingfield on a number of topics including market research, web-site development/optimisation together with hard/soft selling skills.

March 2005 - Two years on.....Two years ago today Aster Interim Solutions was incorporated. Paul Wilson, Managing Director takes up the story. &ldquo;We formed Aster because we thought we could offer further added value to what is already a niche sector. Our unique combination of interim management and training services has not only brought us business awards and commendations but judging by the demand for our companies services has really struck a chord with the manufacturing sector. The business has exceeded our growth expectations and we are ahead of our three year business plan at this particular point in time. Not that we will be resting on our laurels - we have some exciting new developments coming up in the next 3 months which should further enhance our positioning in the business service sector".

March 2005 - Aster train Darby Glass in Lean ManufacturingThe Darby Group plc is the leading independent processor of glass in the UK, working from nine sites to provide national coverage to their customers.

1st March 2005 - GEEST to remove 'waste'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.

February 2005 - Aster tender for Ford Lean Training Programme  
Aster has been selected as one of the 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.

January 2005 - Aster launch Lean Manufacturing programme for office based engineers  
Aster officially launched their new training programme for office based engineers. Entitled 'Lean Tools for Engineers' this course is designed to facilitate the introduction of lean tools and techniques into engineering/drawing offices. Concentrating on 5S, 7 Wastes and Value Stream Mapping, the course focuses from an administrative perspective on how to eliminate waste and add value in office based disciplines.

December 2004 - Danfoss Randall employ the latest lean tools & techniques  
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 are one of the country's leading manufacturers of domestic and commercial heating controls.

November 2004 - Niftylift select Aster to train office based staff in lean enterprise  
Milton Keynes based access platform manufacturer, Niftylift has selected Aster Training to roll out Lean Manufacturing principles throughout their office areas.

November 2004 - GEEST to go lean with the help of Aster  
Aster have been selected to carry out Lean Manufacturing training at one of GEEST's UK facilities.

October 2004 - Aster facilitate Failure Mode Effect Analysis 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 Highly Commended in Citizen Business Awards 2004  
Aster Interim Solutions have received further recognition of their contribution to local business by being selected as Highly Commended in the category 'New Business of the Year' in the Milton Keynes Citizen Business Awards 2004. The award ceremony was held on 12th November 2004. The judges made the following comments "Aster Interim Solutions provided clear financial management information and clearly defined future goals. A proactive organisation that has developed strong networking relationships and a very honest approach to work, life and balance". Lisa Wilson, Aster's Business Support Director stated, "We were over the moon to be short-listed for this award, it represents further evidence of our company's growing standing in the local business community".

October 2004 - Aster win 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.

October 2004 - Aster wins prestigious Business Award  
Aster Interim Solutions were winners of the category "Most Promising New Business 2004" at the South East of England Chamber of Commerce Business Awards for 2004. The category, open to all companies in the south east region (from Milton Keynes south to the Isle of Wight) who have been trading for two years or less, was hotly contested but in the end Aster Interim triumphed because of its innovative business services. Aster now has automatic entry to the British Chamber of Commerce awards to be held on 25th November at the Guildhall in London.

Ross McNally, Executive Director of the South East England Chambers of Commerce paid tribute to the company's vision, creativity and forward planning.

Lisa Wilson, Business Support Director of Aster Interim Solutions stated "When you set up a new business the world is a lonely place as you tend to get caught

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.

July 2004 - Aster win Lean Manufacturing contract  
Delta Impact, 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.

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](http://www.mas.dti.gov.uk)

November 2003 - Aster joins local Chamber

Aster Interim Solutions became a member of the Milton Keynes and North Bucks Chamber of Commerce. Look out for us at some of their events and networking opportunities in 2004.

November 2003- 5S Introduction

Aster training was awarded a contract to introduce 5S into Axis Electronics, a Bedfordshire based manufacturing

company.

October 2003 - Aster gets on line presence

Aster joined the ranks of companies with an on line presence today. The web-site has been designed to be informative, inter-active and easy to navigate. Any comments on how the site could be improved would be warmly welcomed.

March 2003 - Aster Incorporated

Following a successful period of senior management experience for both multi-national companies and SMEs, Lisa & Paul Wilson formed Aster Interim Solutions Ltd. The new company will focus on providing interim management and training services to the manufacturing sector.