What is The Manufacturing Game®?

The Manufacturing Game® (TMG) is an interactive simulation that has been used for thirteen years by over 250 organizations around the world, to significantly improve performance. Several years ago we completed a revamping of The Manufacturing Game® that takes accelerated learning to new heights. To propel the TMG simulation into the prevailing industrial environment today required integration of additional real-life manufacturing functionality including high-priority factors such as Health, Safety and Environmental considerations and a shrinking workforce. Integral elements of systemic thinking and collaborative interdependent relationships within manufacturing environments are highlighted in the latest version of TMG through:

- modeling how potentially harmful elements of manufacturing processes can affect the environment and a company’s license to operate
- expanding awareness of accident-causing defects which need to be identified and eliminated, and
- revealing how at-risk behaviors and defects are connected to worker safety

Just finding skilled employees can be a challenge. This condition is incorporated into one of the improvements reflected in the new TMG. Defects can now originate not only with the entry of raw materials, but also with mistakes introduced by operations personnel, as well as contract personnel brought in to supplement the core employee workforce. These contractors require time and training to understand how the system works. Full-time employees and regular contractors usually have already been trained to be both skilled and efficient. Understandably, more defects come in with temporary contract personnel than with the core workforce—more accurately depicting a true scenario of industry today.

TMG gives an experience of the challenge of finding time for people to get the improvements done. This is the operational leadership aspect of becoming a learning organization. Also in this new version, people have to come up with the concrete improvement ideas to eliminate the various sources of defects. Taking action is one of the most unique aspects of this workshop. The improvement activities that are launched in the workshop are focused on things that participants can do “on-the-job.” These improvement activities tackle the nagging defects that cause repetitive problems and failures. This is the network leadership aspect, which was not in the original version of TMG. Because of these leadership enhancements, the new game helps managers to see their roles more clearly in the improvement process.

While the hard dollar savings of improvement activities are tremendously helpful in accelerating change, the impact of The Manufacturing Game® on the culture of the organization is important as well. The Manufacturing Game® will help build a shared vision and shared language for improvement efforts. The Manufacturing Game® workshops help to build the culture required for significant and lasting change.