

Media Advisory

08-145
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6/27/08

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SOFTWARE HELPING AEROSPACE MANUFACTURER IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, BOOST PRODUCTION

United Space Alliance Says Microsoft-Based Software Helped Space Shuttle Project

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 27, 2008 – On this week’s “America’s Business with Mike Hambrick” radio program, officials from Microsoft Corp., the ProModel Corp. predictive analytic software solutions and consulting company, and United Space Alliance talk about how computer software can help manufacturers improve efficiency. United Space Alliance used Microsoft’s Visio software and ProModel’s Process Simulator to significantly boost repair and replacement production of tiles used to protect space shuttles from heat during re-entry into Earth’s atmosphere. Process Simulator is a plug-in to Microsoft Visio software.

WHO: Ingo Heel of Microsoft Corp.

Heel on how ProModel’s software allowed United Space Alliance to use computer simulations to improve efficiency before doing expensive, unnecessary factory floor changes:

“So they would be able to do that - perform the what-ifs before they actually even created the changes at USA (United Space Alliance). So it was a big time saver for them in that respect and obviously saves them a lot of cost because they don’t have to do a trial and error on site. They can do it in the program initially first.”

WHO: David Tucker, United Space Alliance
Tucker holds a Master Black Belt, or the highest ranking, in the Six Sigma program. Six Sigma is an integrated, disciplined proven approach for improving business performance.

Tucker comments on how the software improved production:

“I can tell you to triple the production requirements and not have to hire anybody new or buy any equipment was a pretty amazing feat. So we were able to do that without tripling our resource requirements. We used what we had.”

**WHO: Bruce Gladwin, Vice President ProModel Consulting Services
Gladwin is also a Black Belt in the Six Sigma program.**

Gladwin on how United Space Alliance case is an example of lean manufacturing principles:

“There is a common misperception about lean production principles. That common misperception is that it’s all about reducing headcount and therefore reducing costs. And really that’s not true. The focus of lean is to free up capacity. And so therefore the idea is that by eliminating non value-added activities we can produce more with our given amount of resources and therefore free us up to meet greater customer demand.”

WHAT: “America’s Business with Mike Hambrick” is a weekly business radio program that airs on more than 60 stations nationwide. The program explores the issues and people that matter most to America’s manufacturers. To listen to the program online or to find stations airing the program go to www.americasbusiness.org.

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