

Project Name:

New Process & Product Development (NPPD) Database

What was the problem

- Employee new process or product ideas were being received via random email.
- All ideas were being handled through a manual process of updating spreadsheets and data collection.
- All idea meetings and scoring was collected by a meeting secretary.
- Idea graphing was manually created.
- Submitters received no feedback or status updates on their ideas.

Lean Solution

- Develop an online database where employees can submit new ideas in an easy to fill out online form.
- Ideas are automatically collected and stored, notifications are automatically sent to the NPPD team when scoring is needed.
- NPPD team has the ability to score ideas independently as they review the idea eliminating the need for a meeting secretary.
- Ideas are automatically moved from one gate to another upon minimum score being achieved.
- Average scoring calculated automatically as each NPPD team member submits their scoring.
- Ideas automatically banked if minimum score is not met.
- Notifications are automatically sent to the submitter when there has been a status change.
- Graphing is automatically created with no manual intervention.
- Reward & Recognition flags are automatically sent to NPPD team when a idea has passed a gate so the submitter receives their due award or recognition.
- Provides a dashboard for submitters to see their ideas progression throughout the process at any time.

Client Feedback *(continued on next page)*

Lean Process Company:

Specialty Minerals Inc

About Company:

Specialty Minerals Inc. (SMI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Minerals Technologies Inc., is an international producer of high-performance minerals: talc, precipitated calcium carbonate, ground calcium carbonate, lime, dolomite and barytes.

Potential or Realized

Cost Savings:

Time savings average per month:
27-34hrs.

Total month savings: \$1,890-2,380

Using our custom developed lean tools, all of our customers have experienced substantial cost savings. In EVERY case, our solutions have saved our customers thousands of dollars and have paid for themselves in less than 6 months. Contact us today to setup a consultation and stop throwing money out the window!



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Client Feedback

“Each of the gate keeping leaders are stretched so thin, that I’m not sure we’d be able to keep our NPPD process in order without the website database to keep it organized.

In the past, our company had an individual, who’s full time job was to look after the NPPD functionality 50% the size of what we are doing today. Now, the process is managed by four individuals, who can spend at most 5-10% of their time in this area. So, you have total 20-40% of a single person, managing 200% the process we’ve had in the past. This is a 5-10 x increase in effective capacity.

The effect on the broader NPPD community is also enhanced.

For each monthly meeting, it saves the gate leader 4-8 hours/mo (4 leaders):

- 1-2 hours of organizing the new ideas, and prepping them for the review meeting.
- 1-2 hours per gate meeting, in allowing quick views and consensus decisions.
- 1-2 hours post gate meeting, in placing the idea in the proper stage for future meetings, or placing properly in the bank area.
- 1 hour is saved with the recognition function, no more checking off who is owed response, for what reason.

It saves the broader gate keeping community, collectively on a monthly basis 3-6 hours total. (~30 active users).

- 1-2 hours per person locating, reading, and scoring ideas before and during the meeting
- 1-2 hours per gate meeting, reviewing ideas (15-30 min per idea)
- 1-2 hours per top manager in the company, due to the instant snapshot dashboard, in understanding our updated status (10 active users).

For just me, finally, the banking and pre-banking features save me an additional 2-4 hours each month, by identifying and categorizing the banked projects (without bothering others).”

~ Director - Corporate Business Development
Speciality Minerals, Inc.