

Cell Manufacturing

Building products in self-contained cells — faster flow, less waste, more flexibility.

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Audience	Production staff and operational leaders, worldwide
Language	English
Approx. spoken time	~3.5 minutes

Production note. Read aloud only the spoken text. Section headings and this note are for orientation and must not be spoken. Numbers and symbols are written out in words so the voice speaks them naturally.

1 — Opening

Welcome. In the next few minutes we will look at one of the most practical ideas in lean production: cell manufacturing. Instead of sending work through separate departments in large batches, we group everything one product family needs into a single, self-contained cell, and let the product flow through it one piece at a time.

2 — What it is, and why it matters

So, what is it? Cellular manufacturing is a lean method that organises workstations into cells, each set up to produce a family of similar products. The goal is to move the product through quickly, with as little waste as possible. The benefits follow directly: less waste, because we remove waiting, transport and excess stock; higher productivity, through shorter set-up and lead times and less work-in-progress; more flexibility, to react to demand; and lower cost, because a cell needs less space and capital.

3 — How it works, in six steps

How does a cell work? Three simple ideas. Similar parts are grouped into one cell. The people are cross-trained, so they balance the work between them. And the product moves one piece at a time, in sequence. Building a cell follows six steps: analyse the current process, group products into families, design the layout for least movement, assign tasks and cross-train, standardise the work, and then monitor and improve. A cell is never finished.

4 — Functional layout versus the cell

How is this different from a traditional line? A traditional line is built for a high volume of one standard product, with large batches pushed between departments. A cell is built for variety — products that differ but share common steps. Machines are grouped by product family, in sequence, so the work flows and a problem is seen at once by the next pair of hands.

5 — Flow and pull

Inside a cell, two flows run in opposite directions. The material flows forward, one piece at a time. The information flows backward: each step signals what it needs, using a simple card, a kanban — so nothing is made until the next step asks for it. And the pace is set by the customer; we call that takt, the rhythm of demand.

6 — The gains, and what it means for people

What do we gain? Quality, because faults are caught at the source, not multiplied across a batch. Lead time, which commonly drops by thirty to seventy percent. And higher productivity — without new machines. Just as important, a cell changes the work itself: people become multi-skilled, the team shares ownership of its quality and delivery, and the workplace is safer and better balanced.

7 — How it fits OPEX – THE AUK WAY, and close

Finally, a cell is one structural way to live our operational-excellence model — the AUK way. Its board and daily huddle are visual management; it is judged by the same measures, from overall equipment effectiveness to on-time-in-full delivery; and it puts a cross-skilled, accountable team at the centre. Built into the flow, and powered by people. Pick one idea from today and picture it at your own station. Thank you.

End of script. ≈ 3.5 minutes. © Gherzi Germany · AMANN Group Learning Hub · LS2 · OPEX – THE AUK WAY.