



National University of Science and Technology Zimbabwe

Introducing Agile Manufacturing to Unilever ESA Zimbabwe



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Abstract

In today's competitive global market place characterized by stringent regulations, higher operating costs, scarcity of resources and demands from increasingly informed customers agility has become a survival factor for many organizations. In a changing competitive environment, there is a need to develop organizations and facilities that are significantly more flexible and responsive than existing ones (*Gould et al. 1997, James-Moore et al. 1996*). The study focus is on the implementation of agile manufacturing principles in Unilever ESA Zimbabwe. The various manufacturing systems are reviewed in the literature together with the enablers for agile manufacturing. An audit on the organization was undertaken and the level of agility determined (gap analysis). The agility gap was then bridged by recommending the implementation strategies for this specific organization.

