VWR® CATALYST
We Enable Science Through Services

STOCKROOM INVENTORY MANAGEMENT
SUCCESS STORY

SAVING TIME AND REDUCING COSTS THROUGH COST EFFICIENT INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

Problem

Keeping track of lab supplies emerged as a complicated problem for a global leader in household products manufacturing. Frequent delays and difficulty in locating lab supplies compelled researchers to stock more than they needed, and inventory was piling up.

The company's procurement team estimated that its laboratories were stocking three to four times the necessary volume. The expense of accommodating this inventory could not be passed on to the customer, and managing this stock was an inefficient use of scientists' time.

Solution

The company asked VWR to analyse its inventory, study its current ordering process, and recommend a solution that would reduce costs while allowing scientists to stay focused at the bench. A **VWR**CATALYST Lean Six Sigma Business Process Consultant (BPC) studied the situation and created a plan that included:

Establishing buying patterns for all stocking locations

- Consolidating suppliers to reduce ordering and invoice complexity, as well as operational costs
- Implementing an automated inventory management system to prevent repetitive ordering, optimise inventory levels, and reduce scientist involvement in procurement
- Labour justification to manage the process after implementation

The **VWR**CATALYST Site Services Team implemented the 5S system in the stocking locations: Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardise, and Sustain Forward. This system emphasises standardising methods of organising and cleaning the stockroom, and continuous use of these methods to reduce the time spent on future reorganisation efforts.

Problem

A large household product manufacturing company needed a new system to control costs and stop wasting scientific resources on inventory management.

Solution

An automated inventory management system was implemented to prevent repetitive ordering, reduce scientists' involvement, and optimise inventory levels.

Result

Reduced overstock inventory by **$30 450** and recovered **4373** hours per year for research that had previously been wasted on managing inventory.

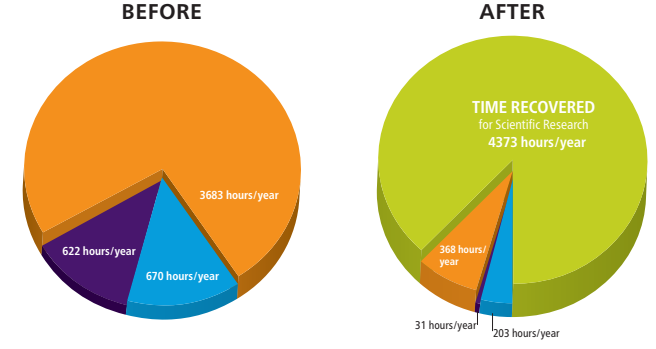

Figure 1. Summary of results from Lean business process assessment time studies

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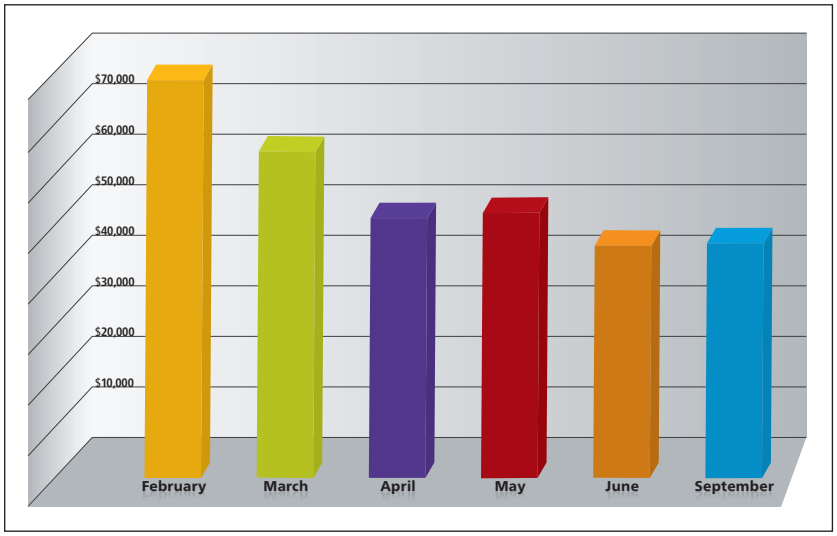

Figure 2. Summary of reduction in on-hand inventory.

Result

VWRCATALYST introduced technology, process innovation and metrics to drive greater efficiency. The company has saved:

- **$30 450 through inventory reduction** over the fi rst six months of the programme
- **$442 000 in process cost savings** resulting from new desktop delivery system, which frees up researcher time
- **$7850 through transferring management** of stockrooms to VWR

The automated inventory management system also recovered more than 4300 hours that scientists had previously been using on searching for supplies instead of research activities. The fi rst phase of the project has recovered 130 square feet of storage space, which created a savings of almost $12 000. Additional plans for the future will potentially reclaim as much as 5000 square feet.

Are your scientifi c resources being wasted on non research activities? **VWR**CATALYST has the skills, knowledge and experience to support research productivity improvement at your organisation. Visit **VWR.COM/VWRCATALYST** or email **VWRCATALYST@vwr.com** for more information.

We Enable Science Through Services

From research to production, **VWR**CATALYST can help you re-focus scientific time on initiatives that directly support the strategic mission of your company.

We Enable Science by:

- Powering productivity
- Improving quality, safety, and regulatory compliance
- Reducing total operating costs

Our services include:

- Procurement and Supply Management
- Laboratory and Production Support
- Scientific Support
- Equipment and Instrument Services
- Lean Six Sigma Process Consulting

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