

SUMMARY

In this research work, I have :

- Elaborated what lean manufacturing is, and the importance of lean to optimise production;
- Expanded upon the key principles of lean and their advantages;
- Elaborated potential challenges that could be faced by an enterprise trying to implement lean principles;
- Described what ERP systems are;
- Described how it is a tool that can support lean manufacturing;
- Listed various main ERP vendors;
- Described the main lean principles that must be supported by the ERP systems;
- Shown ERP vendors that already provide systems with tools to support lean and compared some of them;
- Presented the opportunities and limitations associated with the implementation of ERP in lean manufacturing.

To conclude, if an ERP system is implemented at the end process in lean manufacturing, it can help make the operational part of manufacturing such as planning, supplier and customer relation, etc more efficient. The ERP vendor can be chosen based on the tools provided and suitability to the production line. Enterprises can even look to develop their own ERP systems which is also an option.

Future research can look to prove these results in an experimental way. There is also potential to investigate how lean organizations can work more efficiently with customers who are not lean.