

SC21 and the Techno Group

Those letters and numbers sound like another obscure technical code and it might be one for many 'old-school' turned part manufacturers but not for the Techno Group. Supply Chain for the 21st Century (SC21) is omnipresent in the group culture and as Kevan Kane (MD) puts it: "Survival is not an option. We need to deliver innovation, through life solutions and competitiveness for our customers".

This being the prime philosophy at Techno Group, the organisation decided to be a self starter in the SC21 program. The Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) provides the latter aiming to restructure the aerospace supply chain and prepare it for modern requirements. The aerospace industry is increasingly demanding and if the consumer costs decrease, airlines companies need to start saving somewhere which feed through the supply chain down to companies like Techno Group, hence the importance of the SC21.

The program requires adhering to a business philosophy summed up in seven points:

The first consists of a business culture where work is performed openly and transparently and waste is avoided. The Techno Group adopted this rule when implementing lean manufacturing and empowering employees. The second, delivering innovation, aims to build a competitive value chain for customers. In this regard, the Techno Group plants contain the latest CNC machines, non contact measuring equipment, ultrasonic cleaning apparatus and wireless monitoring software.

The third, through life solutions, targets all functions of the supply chain such as engineering, finance, projects or procurements. The fourth, delivering the SC21 plan implies that the company acknowledges the benefits of being reviewed and tested every year with the results being published. The fifth, leadership, encourage the signatories to motivate other colleagues to join the program. The Techno Group actively promotes the latter within the MAA (Midlands Aerospace Alliance).

The sixth, ethical practices, ensures business is conducted using principled manners with a high degree of personal and business integrity. The last point, increased pace of change, intends to motivate participants to accelerate the rate of changes and harmonise supply chains. The Techno Group, as previously mentioned, invests constantly in new technology, up to date sales and marketing strategies and new trends such as hiring a university student on placement.

Fred Moser (Techno Group Owner) concludes that "For those understanding we are talking about a very long term process of continuous improvement then this can be a recipe for becoming and remaining competitive as well as staying in business for the long term, providing jobs, income and hope for the future."