

Production Recovery

ReThink Manufacturing · Evidence-led manufacturing improvement

Summary: A critical quilting machine had remained out of operation for an extended period following multiple unsuccessful repair attempts. The machine was central to production scheduling, and the situation had become increasingly costly.

Problem: A critical quilting machine had remained out of operation for an extended period following multiple unsuccessful repair attempts. The machine was central to production scheduling, and the situation had become increasingly costly.

Approach: Each repair attempt had addressed a different component — belts, motors, sensors — based on what seemed like plausible causes at the time. None of the attempts had been informed by systematic observation of what was actually happening when the machine ran.

Timing had not been correctly synchronised following a belt replacement. The machine was running, but out of phase — producing output that appeared broken to the operators but had no obvious single-component failure.

The timing synchronisation was corrected. The machine was re-commissioned and returned to full operation.

Outcome: Production successfully restored. The repair cost a fraction of the accumulated attempts.