



Introduction to POLCA

October 20, 2021 | Fluno Center | Madison, Wisconsin

POLCA: The People-friendly Production Control System for High-mix, Low-volume and Custom Products

POLCA (Paired-cell Overlapping Loops of Cards with Authorization) is a card-based visual control system that manages the flow of jobs through the shop floor: at each operation, it controls which job should be worked on next to meet delivery targets. POLCA ensures that upstream operations use their capacity effectively by working on jobs that are needed downstream, while at the same time preventing excessive work-in-process (WIP) build-ups when bottlenecks appear unexpectedly. POLCA is particularly suited to companies manufacturing high-mix, low-volume and custom products, for which Kanban systems do not work well. These companies often struggle with long lead times, late deliveries, and daily expediting. POLCA has delivered impressive results in such companies, including 50-75% reduction in inventory and lead times, and on-time delivery improved to over 98%.

POLCA Builds on the Capabilities of People in the System

Many software-based scheduling systems lose sight of the fact that such systems are deployed by people who need to buy in to the system and support it. In contrast, experience with many companies has shown that people on the front line like using POLCA, and they help to ensure that it works well.

POLCA Eliminates the Daily Stress of Hot Jobs

The visual signals from POLCA enable employees to react quickly to shop floor realities such as bottlenecks, part shortages, and customer expedites without getting lost in the complexity. As problems are eliminated, management and supervisors' time is liberated to focus on strategic improvements instead of daily fire-fighting.

The Crowning Aspect of POLCA is that it is Simple

Utilizing POLCA does not require any complex software implementation: it can be used without an ERP system or it can seamlessly complement an existing ERP system.

What you will learn:

- Why MRP and Kanban don't work well in low-volume and custom environments
- How POLCA works; Benefits of POLCA (with industry case studies)
- Steps for implementing POLCA in your company

Learn directly from Rajan Suri - the inventor of POLCA!

Rajan Suri is the inventor of the POLCA system and has received awards from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and Industry Week magazine. He is the founding director of the Center for Quick Response Manufacturing and emeritus professor of Industrial Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Event Schedule

Continental breakfast and check-in starting at 8:30 a.m. (Central Time)

Course from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (includes lunch and two breaks)

Networking reception from 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Fee: \$395 per person
(Discounted fee for QRM Center member companies: \$245 per person)

Registration Deadline:

October 15, 2021

To register online, go to www.qrm.engr.wisc.edu

Lodging: Overnight accommodations are available at the Fluno Center. See our website for details and booking link.

QRM Certificate

This course fulfills one of the requirements for the QRM Certificate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Please see our website for details.

Upcoming Events

How to Implement QRM

(Virtual Training - Microsoft Teams)
November 10-12, 2021

Practical Strategies to Support Cross-Training, Teamwork and Empowerment in QRM Cells

(Virtual Training - Microsoft Teams)
January 20, 2022



Center for
Quick Response Manufacturing
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON