

Spirec

# Custom-made heat exchangers made by the unit

Spirec's strategy: develop specific heat exchangers by processing them as standard products manufactured by the unit. Means used: a continuous improvement process.

**S**pirec designs and manufactures spiral heat exchangers. "These are dual cross flow heat exchangers which, by their design, require little maintenance or even no maintenance at all", Jean-Marie Guegen, Spirec CEO, explains.

These heat exchangers are manufactured on demand, by the unit or in small series. "Our target is to deliver at D+1, without stock, an easily assembled heat exchanger specifically adapted to the Customer's application", Jean Marie Gueguen continues.

## Continuous improvement

To reach this target, Spirec makes customised standard modules. The means used: the implementation of the "Lean Manufacturing" tools.

"Thanks to the intervention of Patrick Bessert, an industrial organisation consultant, within the framework of Cetim's High Performance Production programme, we became aware of the benefits of the 5S method in our workshop, that is to say the organisation of the workstations so that they remain clean, ergonomic and

without unnecessary tools" Jean Marie Gueguen says. "Later on, based on this initiation, we continued the "Lean Manufacturing" approach with this consultant."

The targets: reorganise the production, eliminate all sources of waste, reduce unnecessary movements, change tools rapidly, train newly recruited staff, develop specific tooling, improve operators' comfort and performance, etc.

"The advantage of "Lean Manufacturing" is that it improves visibility", Jean Marie Gueguen admits. "Each of the four production lines includes three stations: should one of these stations slow down, in-process stocks would build up

between the stations. The aim of the continuous improvement process implemented is precisely to minimise such in-process stocks."

Jean Marie Gueguen concludes: "There is still a long way to go before we can focus on continuous improvement only, but isn't "Lean Manufacturing" precisely a continuous improvement behaviour?".



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## Cetim's asset

Cetim identified the profile of the consultant who masters the "Lean Manufacturing" concept adapted to small and medium companies. This consultant proposed solutions and accompanied Spirec's production staff during implementation. Cetim's High Performance Production programme was initiated within the framework of the Comité Mécanique Île-de-France (Mechanical committee of Île de France); it is steered by the CCIV (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Versailles) and supported by the Drire (Regional Board for Industry, Research and Environment) and the European Community.



## OUR CUSTOMER

**Corporate name**  
Spirec

**Sales turnover**  
6 million euro

**Workforce**  
30 persons

**Activity**  
Company founded in 1974 by Guy de Seyssel. Spirec manufactures spiral heat exchangers