

## NEWS RELEASE:

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### **SME RELEASES NEW BOOK *THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO LEAN***

**DEARBORN, Mich.**, December 13, 2005 — The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) today announced the release of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Lean: Lessons from the Road* [www.hitchhikersguidetolean.com](http://www.hitchhikersguidetolean.com), a book that shares lessons learned from real applications and results of applying lean. Authors Jamie Flinchbaugh and Andy Carlino, founders and partners of the Lean Learning Center in Novi, MI, reveal the most critical lessons learned over their combined 30-plus years of exploring the lean highways.

"This book will help you learn lean, taking you through everything from lean principles to pitfalls to avoid. Creating change, particularly the kind discussed in this book, is a war. It is a war to win the minds and hearts of people and lead them where you want to go," said Dennis Pawley, contributor to *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Lean*.

One of the book's lessons is that lean leaders add value by changing things, moving them forward, and producing different results than the day before. To lead, you must go beyond creating a vision. You must develop the vehicle that will deliver it. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Lean* is the vehicle that will help you move beyond the tools and take lean to a self-sustaining and continuously improving level.

The book's 10 chapters cover lean principles and thinking, lean leadership moves, the roadmap for lean transformation, common pitfalls of lean journeys, building an operating system, lean accounting, lean material management, lean in service organizations, and how individuals can apply lean to improve themselves. The book concludes with interviews of lean practitioners on the front lines of change at Chrysler, Ross Controls, DTE Energy, RSR Corporation, and Nematik.

"Have you hit a wall in your implementation of lean manufacturing? This very timely book shows that lean is much more than bolting parts together in small batches," says Tom Jackson, author of *Implementing a Lean Management System* and *Corporate Diagnosis*. "It requires a new business operating system, and leaders with the vision and stamina to put it together. With a welcome sense of humor, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Lean* will help us all face the need to retool the incomplete transformation of American business."

Published by SME, 2005, Authors Jamie Flinchbaugh and Andy Carlino, Hardcover, ISBN: 0872638316, Product ID: BK05PUB51, Book Price: \$30/SME Member Book Price: \$27. Order online at: [www.sme.org/store](http://www.sme.org/store), or call 1-800-733-4763. Outside the U.S. & Canada, call: 313-425-3000, ext. 4500. (Purchase order or check) Mail order request to Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Customer Service, P.O. Box 6028, Dearborn, MI., 48121, or Fax to 313-425-3401.

#### **About SME:**

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers is the world's leading professional society supporting manufacturing education. Through its member programs, publications, expositions, and professional development resources, SME promotes an increased awareness of manufacturing engineering and helps keep manufacturing professionals up to date on leading trends and technologies. Headquartered in Michigan, SME influences more than half a million manufacturing engineers and executives annually. The Society has members in 70 countries and is supported by a network of hundreds of chapters worldwide.

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