



For Immediate Release

Pan-Oston Launches Six Sigma “Corporate Initiative”

Bowling Green, KY - May 21, 2009 Pan-Oston, a recognized leader in custom solutions and technology integration for retail environments, is pleased to announce their recent implementation of Six Sigma processes. This implementation reflects our dedication to continuous improvement in quality and service while providing added value to our customers.

Six Sigma is a rigorous, focused, and highly effective implementation of proven principles and techniques aimed at defect and waste reduction. Six Sigma takes proven methods and trains leaders, known as Six Sigma Black Belts, to a high level of proficiency in the application of those techniques.

Through extensive training, Six Sigma Black Belts become proficient at analyzing and measuring the variability of processes, and creating an infrastructure to ensure that performance improvement activities are closely monitored and achieved.

“Pan-Oston is truly an innovative, customer-oriented, leader that is committed to quality, delivery, and offering competitive value. Six Sigma implementation is a great achievement because it will enable Pan-Oston to continue providing the highest level of service and product quality in the industry.”
Mirko Matic, Quality Manager, Six Sigma Black Belt at Pan-Oston

Six Sigma methods are highly advanced, including tools such as logistic regression and general linear modeling to simulate and measure process interaction. Six Sigma also uses the DMAIC performance improvement model, which is defined as follows:

- Define** the opportunity for improvement
- Measure** the existing process performance
- Analyze** the system to identify ways to eliminate the gap between current performance and the desired goal
- Improve** the process
- Control** the new and improved process

The Six Sigma practices are in addition to Pan-Oston’s existing quality system and exemplifies Pan-Oston’s clear commitment to providing the **“Best Value Delivered”** to our customer partners.

Pan-Oston, a majority owned subsidiary of Houchens Industries, Inc., one of the largest employee owned (“ESOP”) companies in the United States, has been an industry leader in the design and manufacture of retail checkout products as well as a broad range of retail fixtures and fittings for over 40 years. www.panoston.com

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