

Manufacturing operations



John G., Head of A380 Programmes

"The DEG populations are the intellectual property of the company, allowing us to develop our intellectual feeding ground. Going forward this will provide us with a real business edge over our competitors"

Entry Requirements

You will need to have a relevant Bachelors or Masters degree or equivalent. Relevant degree subjects include:

Engineering and Management, Manufacturing Engineering, Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Production and Operations Management.

Additional Requirements

Also desirable is experience of a lean manufacturing environment, a leadership role, working in a culturally diverse environment and an understanding of organisational behaviour.

About Manufacturing Operations

Manufacturing Operations is the function that sits between the design and production engineers and the customer. While the engineers define design and production methods and the customer defines quantities and time-scale for their requirements, the operations department reconciles the two positions.

It is broad ranging and incorporates production planning - breaking down higher-level forecasts into lower level build and resource requirements, operations management and implementing lean activities within the Airbus Production System (APS).

The complexity of the aircraft build means the production plans can be extensive. Customer orders come from Airbus Central Entity (Headquarters), in Toulouse, which are then pushed backwards through the supply chain to the various Airbus sites. For example, at Airbus in the UK, Broughton receives wing requirement figures with due dates for delivery to either Toulouse or Hamburg. Broughton would then send the necessary order, with due dates, further down the supply chain to Filton, where some wing components are made. The planners within operations manage all of this data, including the material and resource requirements right to the start of the internal supply chain, including the individual parts and components, as well as the workload requirements for shop floor.

Operations Managers are responsible for ensuring that the figures generated by planners (and designs generated by engineers) are realised. This means making sure adequate resources (people, machines, buildings, logistics and suppliers) are in the right place and at the right time, hence the need to think quickly to resolve any issue that could arise and continually seeking improvements in the process to meet the build targets at lower costs.



**Case Study - Johanna C., TAO & A350 Launch Project Leader
MSc Engineering & Manufacturing Management, Coventry
University, UK (2005)**

"Having joined Airbus through the DEG programme myself, I know that this programme provides fantastic opportunities for new graduates to progress and excel in their development while delivering outstanding results to the business. Across Airbus, Manufacturing Operations DEGs are highly recognised and well known for their competences and excellent performance. Having completed the DEG programme, I am thoroughly enjoying my role as the Target Area Owner (TAO) for Manufacturing Operations, since it allows me to both: support the development of international talents and deliver real business benefits for Airbus."