

# **KAIZEN**

*The Japanese word kaizen means "change for better", with inherent meaning of either "continuous" or "philosophy" in Japanese dictionaries and in everyday use. The popular meaning from Toyota is “continuous improvement” or “small incremental improvements” of all areas of a company, not just manufacturing.*

*Kaizen means all personnel are expected to stop their work when they encounter any abnormality and, along with their supervisor, suggest an improvement to resolve the abnormality. When the improvement requires personnel outside of the immediate work area, a kaizen burst (or radical process improvement) event may be useful. A Kaizen burst event should be part of an overall program of continuous improvement if they are to be successful and for gains to be sustained.*

