

HITACHI RAIL UK MANUFACTURING PLANT BENEFITS FROM SIMPLIFIED SUPPLY CHAIN

1st | HITACHI MANUFACTURING PLANT IN EUROPE

Synergising the component and logistical demands of a facility designed to manufacture high performance trains is not a simple task. Hitachi required a Full Service Provider (FSP) that could simplify supply while allowing room for growth.

PROBLEM

Having opened the **first manufacturing facility of its kind outside of Japan**, Hitachi needed **support in component consolidation**. Its engineers were faced with the challenge of **reducing the Bill of Materials (BoM) while ensuring that all parts met with EU standards**. The supplier network required consolidation, in order to select preferred vendors and **reduce logistical challenges**.

SOLUTION

Optimas, working closely with Hitachi engineers, simplified the supply chain and standardized components simultaneously. Via this approach, Optimas and Hitachi could continuously identify duplicated or surplus fasteners, reducing logistical demands. Local Optimas experts recommended premium suppliers of EU components, while also enacting a Kanban lean manufacturing system that ensured the optimum number of parts was transmitted to the production line in a timely manner.

RESULT

With a reduced BoM and a simplified logistics network, Hitachi was able to maximize the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of operations at the new plant. With a more streamlined supply chain, future growth could also be easily accommodated, increasing Hitachi's ROI.