

BionX™ Medical Technologies, Inc. is a leader in the field of prosthetic devices with the introduction of BiOM ankle, the only lower-limb prosthesis with powered propulsion for enhanced mobility. Privately held and headquartered in Bedford, Mass., BionX was originally founded in 2007 as iWalk by Dr. Hugh Herr, Director and Principal Investigator of the Biomechanics Group of MIT's Media Laboratory.



BIONX
Inspired by You.

The Challenge: BionX wanted to bring Lean Manufacturing to their production floor to eliminate waste and create efficiencies that would allow them to scale their business. As a startup, BionX experienced challenges common to this sector: the market is changing rapidly and the company needed to pivot quickly to meet the changes. In addition, because they were small and had limited resources, this methodology would mean they could maximize their current resources. They also wanted to ensure that any new products would benefit from the “values” of Lean Manufacturing, allowing them to scale efficiently and rapidly.

The Solution: Using grant funding from the Workforce Training Fund, BionX brought in training providers to train employees in lean manufacturing, mechanical, electrical and software engineering, medical device regulatory and quality skills. These trainings helped staff adhere to existing commitments, balance last minute design projects, reduce delays and expand their capabilities.

BUSINESS IMPACT

- Increased efficiencies in manufacturing and production
- Expect to increase sales revenue by 30% in 2016

WORKFORCE IMPACT

- **75%** of employees received training
- **4** new full-time employees hired (48 to 52)
- **17** employees received a 6% salary increase
- **2000+** staff hours of training conducted

“We challenged assumptions and looked for ways to make things better. From here on, process improvement is in our DNA.” -Adrienne, Director, Manufacturing

“We got to express ideas on how to improve the business and the ideas that were implemented changed our production environment.”

-Matt, Manufacturing Engineer