

The Two Parts of Lean Six Sigma



Lean

- Originated from Toyota
- The Toyota Production System (TPS) is at the heart of Lean
- The Lean methodology focuses on eliminating waste and smoothing the process flow
- Lean is not about cutting costs. It is about removing waste without sacrificing quality

Six Sigma

- Developed by Motorola
- To improve processes by reducing variation and defects
- Many (but not all) of the tools are statistical in nature and 6 Sigma emphasises taking action based on fact rather than opinion or common belief
- The "Sigma" (σ) rating of a process can be used as an indicator of how many defective parts a process produces
- Six Sigma equates to 3.4 defects for each million opportunities (DPMO)