Labor Planning in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

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Abstract:
Eli Lilly is one of America's leading developers and manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, with 46,000 employees in 60 countries. One of their main production plants is located in Tippecanoe Labs in Lafayette, Indiana. At any time, the production pipeline includes several new and established products.

Recently, the company faced several changes in both the demand for production and the availability of staff. While the head office at Eli Lilly had invested in expensive supply chain management and enterprise resource planning software, it was not being utilized at plants like the one at Tippecanoe. In this talk I will discuss the modeling of the forecasting and planning issues involved, as well as the value of user interfaces and training in technology adoption.

About the Speaker:
Kevin Ross is an Assistant Professor of Information Systems and Technology Management (ISTM) at UCSC. His research focus includes network management and scheduling, particularly in the high-tech industry. Some previous and current work includes quality of service support through dynamic scheduling algorithms, autonomous computing, and the optimal design and control of engineering systems. He holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University in Management Science and Engineering, and has worked in both the telecommunication (Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies) and pharmaceutical (Eli Lilly and Company) industries.

Next week (10/5/06): Tom Gill, Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Vice-President, Plantronics, will speak on Product Development and Information Technology at Plantronics. (Plantronics, with headquarters in Santa Cruz, is the world leader in Communication headsets).