Improving Speed

Organizations can improve operational speed and efficiency through techniques including:

Value Stream Mapping - Documents all process steps and metrics to visualize bottlenecks and waste to be eliminated.

Cycle Time Reduction - Uses process mapping and lean tools like 5S, kanban, and takt time to remove non-value added time from processes.

Constraint Management - Identifies the bottleneck constraining throughput to prioritize improvements there first.

Work Balancing - Levels workloads between processes, equipment, and employees to avoid delays.

Standardized Work - Defines consistent standardized work instructions so no time is lost figuring out how to perform tasks.

Line Balancing - Synchronizes assembly line workstation durations to reduce waiting between stations.

Setup Reduction - Applies SMED principles to convert internal setups to external and streamline activities.

Total Productive Maintenance - Ensures equipment reliability and rapid changeover to minimize unplanned downtime.

Error-Proofing - Designs processes to prevent defects so no time is lost from scrap and rework.

Automation - Applies technology to self-service transactions and digitize manual work.
process flows and organization design to smooth handoffs.

By methodically eliminating delays, overburden, waiting, rework, and other non-value added activities, organizations can operate at peak speed. Combining cycle time reduction with automation enables responsive customer service at the lowest possible cost.