





elkamet

Extrusions for Automobiles

Plastics for lighting applications

Rotomolding for vehicles

Automation

Case Study: Elkamet

23rd October 2018



- 1. Introduction
- 2. Automation areas
 - Receiving inspection
 - Demolding/Loading
 - Finishing
 - Quality control
 - Logistics
- 3. Conclusion



Automation is the technology by which a **process or procedure** is performed without human assistance.

Fully automated rotomolding machines



Demolding, trimming & storage





- Is automation on small quantity rotomolded products feasible?
- Do automation projects have a ROI of 12 / 24 months or less?

YES, here are some examples!

Automation: Receiving inspection





Source: Keyence

Use of an optical instant measurement system

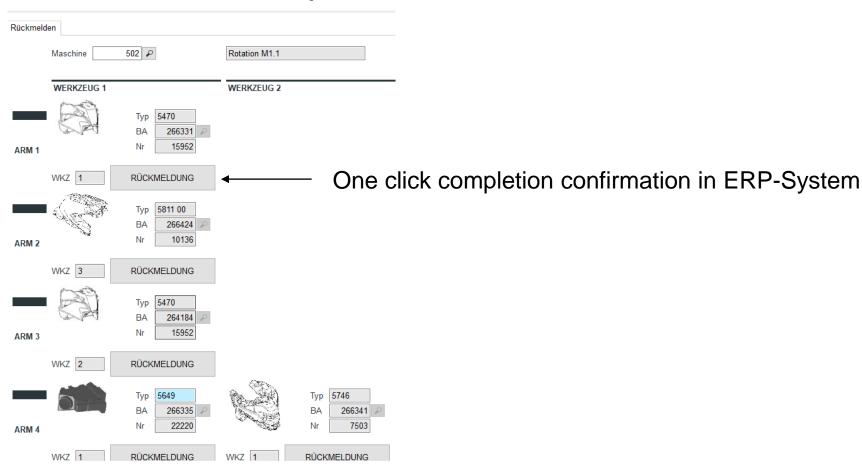
- Measurements performed in seconds
- Measurements feed directly into CAQ-System
- > Increased efficiency in QA



Automation: Demolding / Loading



PDA – Production Data Acquisition



Automation: Demolding / Loading



Automated QR-code label printing



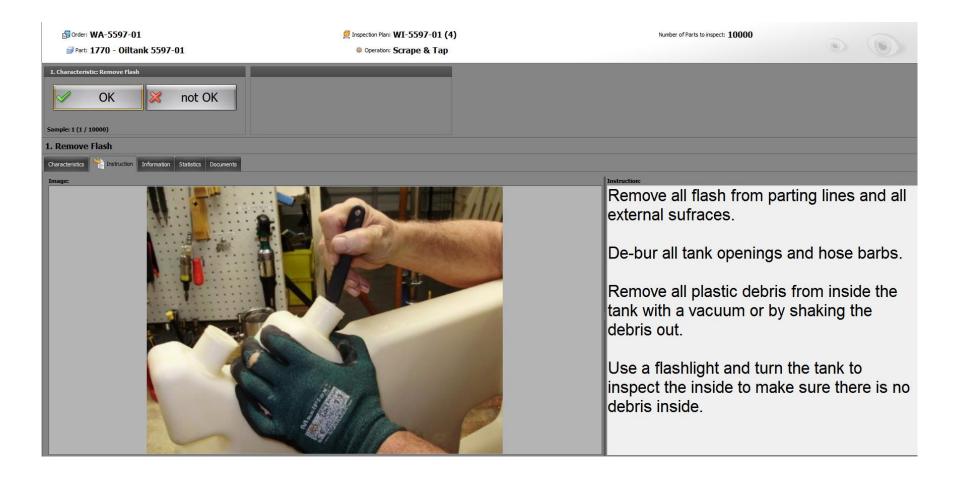
Immediate production data in ERP-System

	Datum	MGR		Schicht (Früh)	Gut	Ausschuss	Leer	Produktivität	Trend
4	02.03.2018	M1.1	P	F	27	1	0	5,6	0,0
5	01.03.2018	M1.1	P	F	21	6	0	5,4	0,0
6	28.02.2018	M1.1	P	F	20	6	2	5,0	0,0

Automation: Demolding / Loading



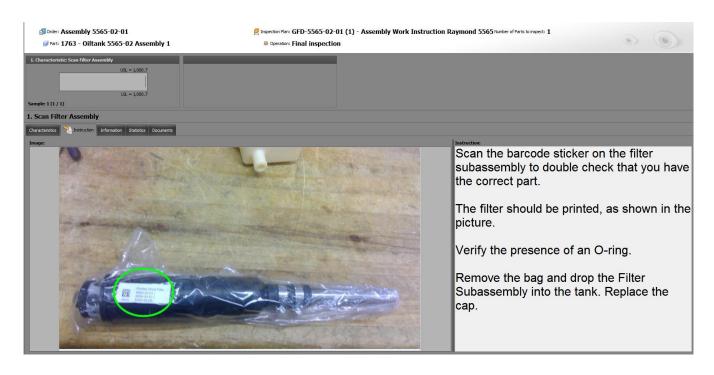
Using the CAQ-System for QA purpose as well as operator instructions



Automation: Finishing



Using the CAQ-System for QA purpose as well as operator instructions



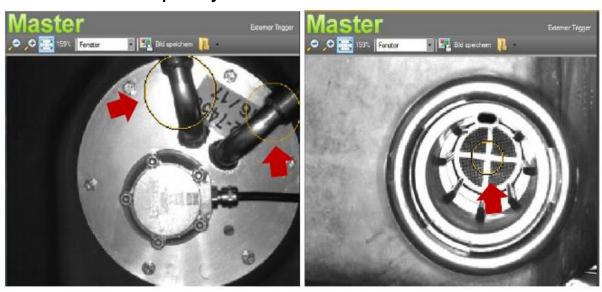
- Using the QR-code of the tank to identify the correct assembly part
- Using the CAQ-System to instruct operators on how to do it
- Have operators acknowledge that they did it according to instructions

Automation: Quality control



- Use of vision sensor to make sure assembly orientations are correct and assembly is complete
- Use of electronic testers, to ensure flow switches and fill gauges are working according to specification
- Test data is automatically imported into CAQ-System

Vision sensor quality control



Source: Elkamet

Automation: Logistics



Wireless scanners enable chaotic storage

- Each pallet or skid is identified by a barcode or QR-code label
- Each storage location (e.g. Rack shelf) is labeled
- The material handler scans the storage location and then the pallet or skid to match the skid to that location. Data is immediately available in the ERP-System.
- ERP-System tells material handler, which products to ship/use next to ensure FIFO





Conclusion



- Automation of <u>parts</u> of processes or procedures is always possible
- Think outside the box: 'What reduces operator time?'
- Keep trying, even if you fail at first

