

LACROIX Electronics



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Technology area:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Big Data
- Digital Twins
- IoT and IIoT
- Cybersecurity
- VR/AR
- Robotics
- Automation
- System Integration
- Smart Sensors
- Additive Manufacturing
- Other

Type of good practice:

- Company
- Project
- Initiative
- Programme
- Other

Target group:

- Discrete (smart) manufacturing
- Automotive
- Aerospace
- Metal processing
- Consumer goods
- Pharmaceuticals and chemistry
- Food and agriculture
- Health
- Textiles
- Others

Summary:

LACROIX Electronics specializes in the design and production of electronic assemblies and sub-assemblies for the automotive, home automation, aeronautics, industry and health sectors. Three years ago, LACROIX Electronics began using two Fanuc cobots to gain flexibility and reactivity at its Saint-Pierre-Monlimart (Maine-et-Loire) facility. The company has chosen a first cobot to automate an X-ray counting station for coil components. This cobot places and retrieves the coils in the machine. The second is dedicated to mechatronic control at the end of the production line.

Detailed description

According to Dominique Maisonneuve, a Smart Industry Project Manager at LACROIX Electronics, the idea behind using the cobots was to be able to use the cobot on activity 1, one day, and on activity 2, the next day. Since the cobots have become more flexible, this makes it easy to use them for different and more specialized uses, with real ease of deployment and adjustment. In fact, according to Dominique, the cobots work well enough to be used to other areas of the workshop that require automated activity in short time.

In addition to this gain in agility, the other benefit of these industrial solutions (cobot, AGV, etc.) is the increase in employees' skills in automation subjects which bring new life into their careers. According to

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LACROIX Electronics, their approach is to automate the control of simple things, and to keep complex controls under the responsibility of highly qualified operators. In other words, the human factor remains decisive in the proper integration of the cobot within the company. Additionally, the company explains that once it is clear what the use of the cobots in the production will be, then it is necessary to determine the skills or even the additional training that the operators might need in order to be able to properly use the cobots.

Beneficial Results

The two cobots have led to a number of beneficial results to LACROIX Electronics, some of which are:

- A gain in agility;
- An increase in the competences of the employees on automation subjects;
- Environmental and economic gains: by using a flexible and modular cobot that can be used for different purposes, the company avoids over-equipping with tools that are too specific to a particular task. Such over-equipment often means superfluous expenses;
- The cobots can be easily integrated into production chains and they can easily be used and programmed by everyone thanks to their simple and intuitive interfaces.

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