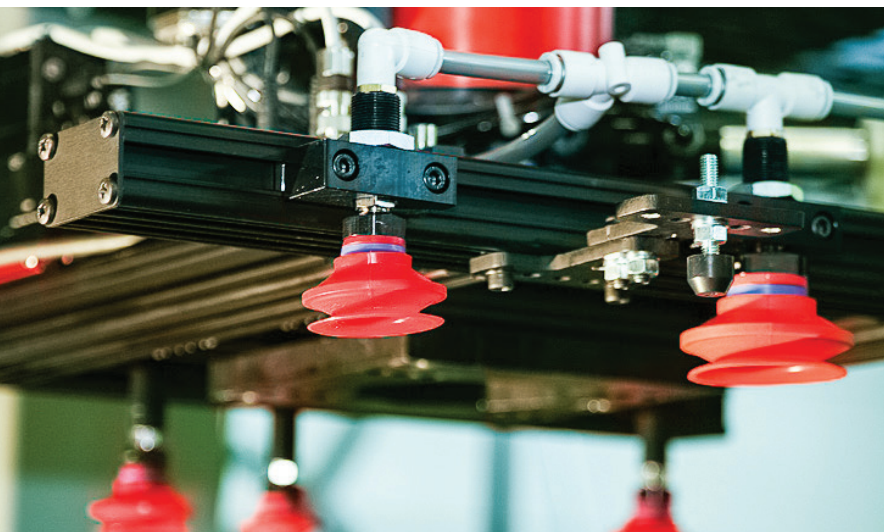


ROBOTICS

Kongsberg Automotive IRB 4600 improves productivity



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01 “ABB has a product program that is able to satisfy our needs, and they always listen to us as their customers.”

Improved productivity

A brand new IRB 4600 almost directly above him stretches out its arm at lightening speed to pick plastic components from an injection-mold. Expansion tanks for trucks are made here. This segment of the process has been automated for a long time, but the faithful old IRB 3000, a robot from 1991 that has worked three shifts seven days a week, has gone into retirement to make way for the new generation of workers. The first 6-axis robot that could be mounted up on the machinery has enabled quicker work and more reliable operation. Ronnie says that the decision to select the IRB 4600 was due to the robot's lighter weight, longer range and improved software compared to earlier models of the same caliber. Another advantage is “Cartesian Soft Servo”, which means the robot functions as a spring in the X, Y and Z axes. The entire robot becomes softly flexible.

The degree of automation at Kongsberg Automotive is high. Workers have 40 ABB robots to assist them in their daily work; six of the robots were purchased over the past year. “I am mostly to blame,” laughs Ronnie Klint, who is an automation technician at Kongsberg Automotive in Mullsjö. He works with programming and installation.

Exclusively ABB robots

“I have wanted to switch our robot for a long time, and when Lars Karlberg from ABB got in touch and told us about IRB 4600, we grabbed the opportunity. Our new robot friend picks components and keeps up very well; it has cut demolding time in half. We can't do anything about the injection molding process - it takes the time it takes. The picking segment, however, is faster now,” says Ronnie.

Stefan Svensson, who is a technician and project manager, gives a tour of the manufacturing facility. He says hello to the workers and nods at their orange “colleagues”. There are almost 40 robots here. “The operation is highly automated, and all of the robots come from ABB. We have used ABB as our supplier for many years since the company has the right know-how and offers the right service,” explains Stefan.

Own integration

"We build and install ourselves - from concept to production start-up. We design the products from scratch, develop, produce and deliver. ABB now has a product program that satisfies our needs. They always listen to us as customer," says Stefan. He says that the company in Mullsjö has purchased a total of six new robots over the past year.

Facts about Kongsberg Automotive

Kongsberg Automotive has 50 factories in 19 countries. The company has an annual turnover of EUR 905 million and around 8,000 employees. The company supplies system solutions to the vehicle industry all across the globe. The company has 360 employees in Mullsjö, which means it is the second largest employer.

The company belongs to Kongsberg Automotive Group, which is headquartered in Norway. Customers are active within vehicle manufacturing all across the globe. End users are drivers and passengers with high demands on traffic safety. One example of development is head restraints that should reduce the risk of whiplash injuries to the greatest extent possible. Automatic gearshifts and shift controls for cars and trucks, expansion tanks for cooling systems and containers for windshield washer fluid are some of the other products produced by Kongsberg Automotive in Mullsjö.

