

Automotive Supplier Solves Labor Shortage Issues with Sawyer

Based in Lafayette, Tenn.,
Tennplasco, specializes
in custom injection molding
operations. Tennplasco deployed
Sawyer into its production facility
to assemble and inspect automotive parts and saw a full
return on its investment in just
three and a half months.

Results

- Solved labor shortage issue by filling two empty positions with Sawyer
- Achieved ROI in three and a half months
- Designed a more efficient work cell with Sawyer handling multiple production roles







The Challenge

Like many manufacturing companies around the globe, Tennplasco struggled to find enough employees to keep production on pace with customer needs. Simply put, Tennplasco cannot operate its many work cells if not enough workers show up. To avoid that situation, the Tennplasco team has spent countless hours and resources hiring and replacing employees that would allow them to continue to operate effectively and efficiently, especially during off shift hours.

As a small company, Tennplasco is always seeking to lower costs, and before deploying a collaborative robot the company closely reviewed the potential return it would provide to ensure the expense was worthwhile. They were looking for the hard-to-find combination of affordable, effective and efficient automation.

The Solution

With Sawyer, Tennplasco met its return on investment in just three and a half months. The company is now able to effectively staff its factory with a combination of human labor and robots, and more efficiently assemble automotive products to meet customer demand. Sawyer is used to assemble and inspect automotive parts in conjunction with Tennplasco employees and testing machines. Automotive component productions such as sensors, defrosters and electronics are ideally suited for collaborative robots, and Tennplasco is one of many leading manufacturers using Sawyer for these types of tasks.

Tennplasco designed a more effective work cell with Sawyer, allowing the company to stay both nimble and innovative. The injection molding market is very competitive, so having the technology to operate efficiently, increase productivity and keep prices low is crucial to maintaining a competitive advantage.

The Future

Sawyer gives small and mid-size manufacturers access to flexible and affordable automation, allowing them to increase efficiency and productivity, close their labor gaps and focus on innovation. Companies can even deploy Sawyer during off shifts to further increase productivity and output, helping them to stay competitive within their industry. Smart, collaborative robots are changing how manufacturers operate by providing affordable ways to deploy automation within minimal down time and a quick return on investment.

Watch Sawyer in action at Tennplasco:

http://rethinkrobotics.com/tennplasco

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