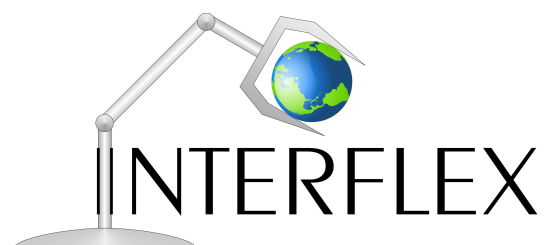


Phase 1

Nikolaj Iversen, Thomas Søndergaard Christensen, David Micka,
Xabier Martinez, Kirstine Winding Nielsen & Simon Wulff Frederiksen

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1 Collaboration

1.1 Belbin

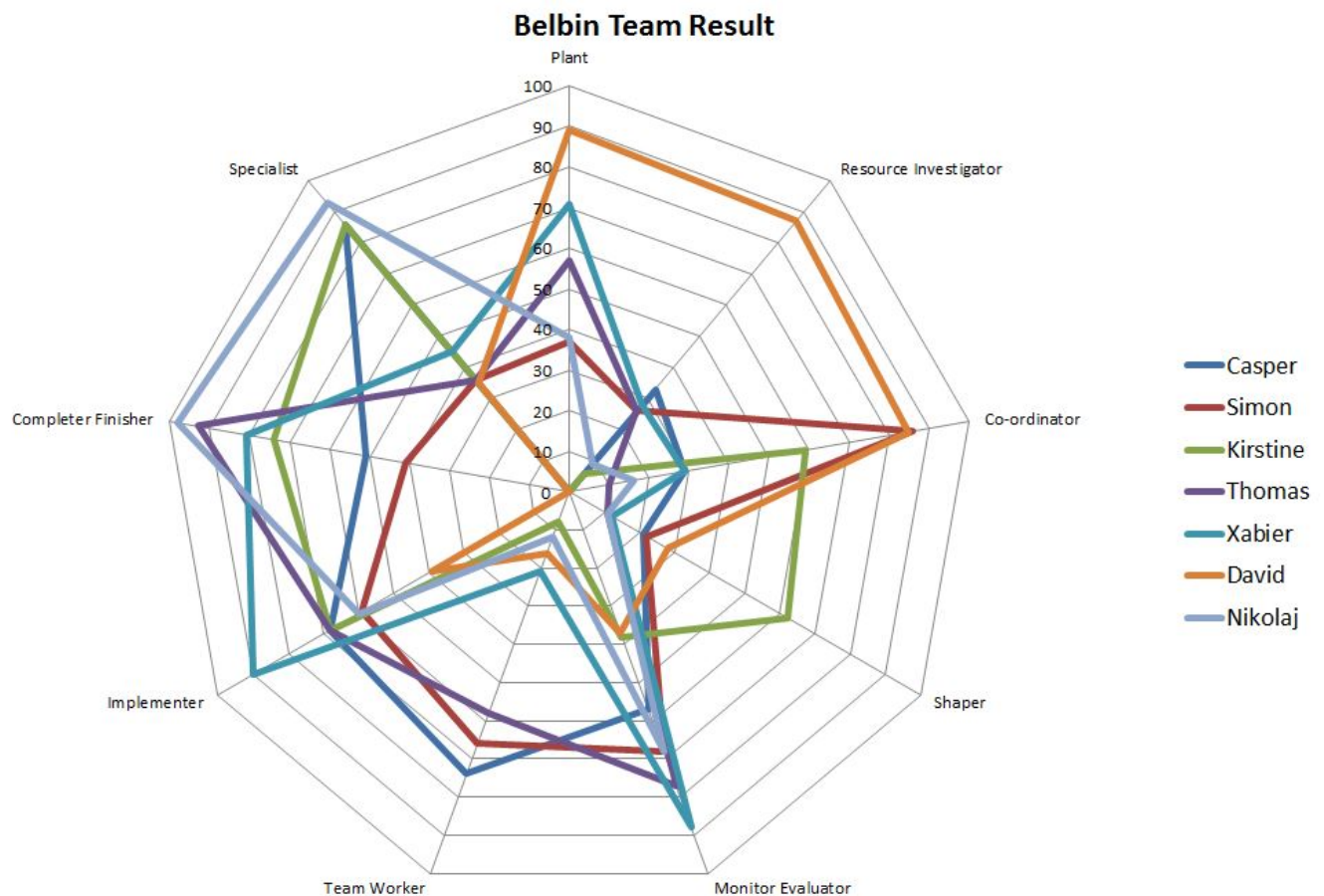


Figure 1.1: Belbin Self-perception "Spiderweb"

Table 1.1 is based on the results of the individual tests, which is also reflected by the spider web chart on figure 1.1. The table shows the strong and weak roles for the team profiles.

It is very clear that the group has a major potential when it comes to developing solutions to perfection, while being able to investigate the different possibilities. This could be explained by the amount of specialists in the group.

It is also very clear that the group lacks drive and a key person to set the pace of the work processes. The group has to be aware that the beginning of project can potentially cause issues. This is due to the lack of Plants and Resource Investigators. The Plants provide creativity and innovation, while the Resource Investigators validates the possibility of and idea.

<i>Contribution:</i>	<i>Allowable Weaknesses:</i>
Top 3 roles:	
Monitor Evaluator	
Sober, strategic and discerning. Sees all options and judges accurately.	Lacks drive and ability to inspire others. Can be overly critical to others.
Implementer	
Practical, reliable, efficient. Turns ideas into actions and organizes work that needs to be done.	Somewhat inflexible. Slow to respond to new possibilities.
Completer Finisher	
Painstaking, conscientious, anxious. Searches out errors. Polishes and perfects.	Inclined to worry unduly. Reluctant to delegate.
Bottom 3 Roles:	
Shaper	
Challenging, dynamic, thrives on pressure. Has the drive and courage to overcome obstacles.	Prone to provocation. Offends people's feelings.
Plant	
Creative, imaginative, free-thinking. Generates ideas and solves difficult problems.	Ignores incidentals. Too preoccupied to communicate effectively.
Resource Investigator	
Outgoing, enthusiastic, communicative. Explores opportunities and develops contacts.	Over-optimistic. Loses interest once initial enthusiasm has passed.

Table 1.1: Top/Bottom 3 Belbin Self-perception for the group

1.2 SWOT

Table 1.2 shows the combination of the SWOT-analysis of the individual members. By combining each SWOT-analysis into one, we get a very good overview of the strengths and weaknesses for the group.

By looking at the two boxes with strengths and opportunities we see that there are a lot of words and sentences that indicate that our team can solve and work with problems, as well as being structured. The two boxes that contain weaknesses and threats indicates that the team is marked by stubbornness, non-shapers and non-innovative members. This implies that the team will probably have a hard time generating ideas and to start work on a problem.

It is a kind of a paradox when we take a look at the strengths and weaknesses of the team. We are very good at solving and working with problems, but at the same time we are having difficulties finding and or creating these problems. This means that the team should be aware of difficulties especially in the beginning of the project.

1.3 Competence triangle

In order to learn more about each group member a competence triangle was created (figure 1.2). The competence triangle separates competences that are on a personal, theoretical and experience level. This is done to get a better understanding of how people view themselves and what their education involves. Each member wrote down 2-3 things about themselves and each item and its relation to the project was discussed. The group has a lot of math and programming focused people, but lacks business oriented people.

1.4 Conclusion

The team has had a lot of difficulties finding a problem that we wanted to work with. We have been using innovative tools including brainstorming to come up with ideas particularly around e-waste but we never got anything useful. After a meeting with the supervisors, we decided to work with an idea that was mentioned in the introduction of the project.

By looking at the results from the Belbin and SWOT-analysis it is not surprising that the team ended in the situation that we did. It is very clear that the team has a weakness when it comes to idea generation and as well a strength in problem solving. Prospectively it would be a good idea to look at the results from the team tests so we don't end up in the same situation as we already have.

Strength	Opportunities
Patient(2) Tolerant Open minded Working with others Communicative Strong work ethics (2) Adaptable Team player Open minded Communicating On time Social Experience (work) Effective Technically skilled Clever Logic thinking Able to prioritize Well organized Decisive(2) Ambitious Thorough Decisive Dedicated to solving issues/problem Comprehensive Discipline on my own Creativity and innovation	Problem solving(3) Good presenter Broad contacts Interested in management Solve problems on time Able to structure the report Can finish a project. Can work from somebody's schedule Can work late Not afraid to delegate and face impacts Mindful of others and open for communication for instance the workload Can work in different areas Idea generation Technical skills Easily can learn other subjects Team worker
Weaknesses	Threats
Stubborn(2) Impatient Inflexible Being on time Express my ideas Unwilling to recognize the value of my work Not starter (If goal is unclear)(2) Loses focus easily(3) Not very innovative/creative (2) Overview Working fully on my own Skeptical within my area Not a perfectionist Bad at keeping track of who knows what Meeting deadlines Uncomfortable with uncertainty	Not a specialist Easily get stressed Impatient, if others don't understand Might be difficult to understand Bad at solving problems myself Bad at remembering details Might ignore good suggestions when focused on other/own ideas The development phase might be slowed down Reduced working time I like parties and going out/I prefer fun over work Focus on too many areas We might never get started Bad at getting ideas to startup a project Losing focus Need things planned in good time Get stalled in some point of the project Don't finish on time

Table 1.2: SWOT-analysis

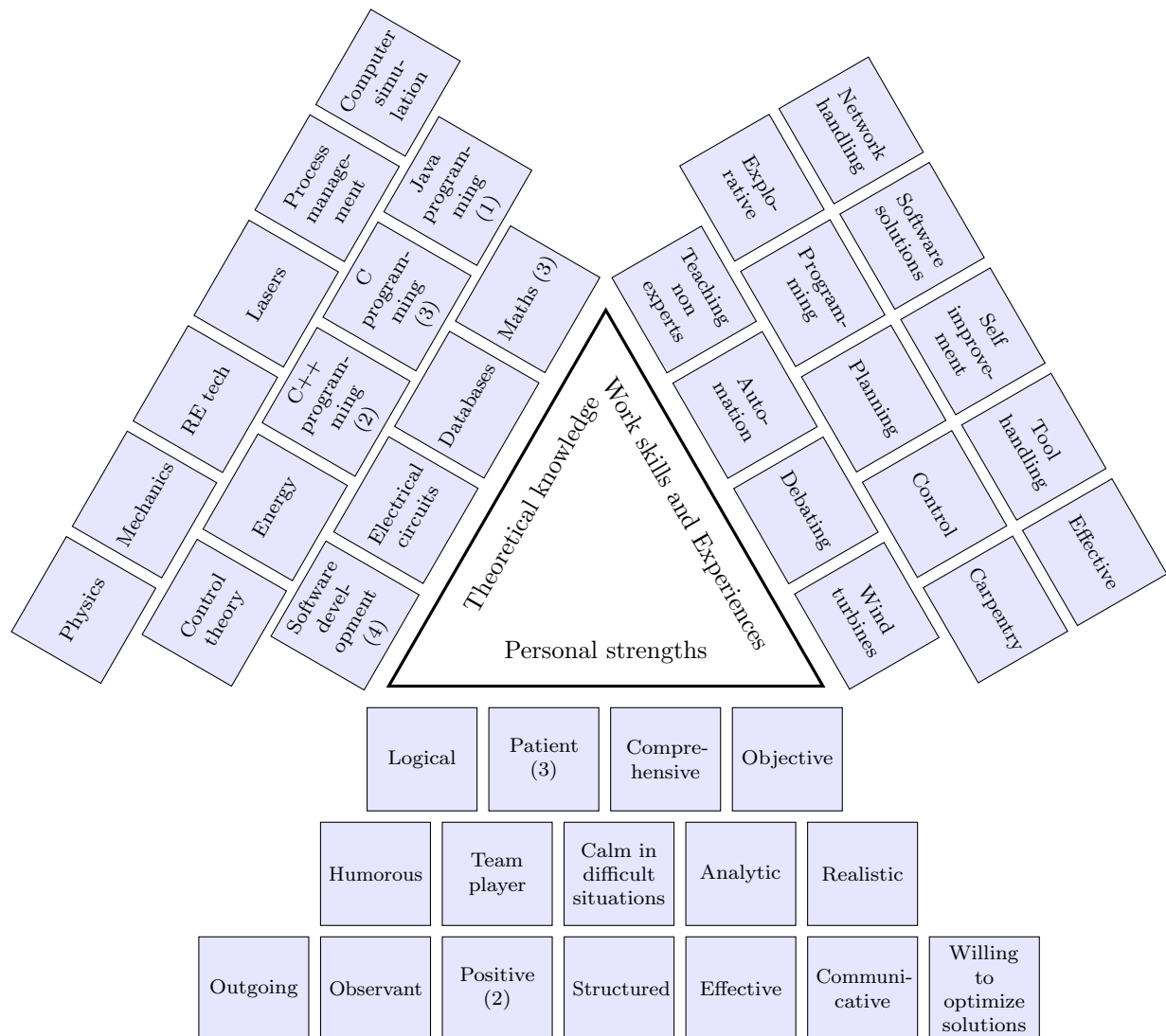


Figure 1.2: Competence triangle

2 Innovation and business

2.1 Pictures

For an idea generation process we all sat around the same table and passed around pictures. We started with the pictures face down so we would pick them at random. When passing the pictures around, each of us said what came to mind when looking at the pictures, always keeping in mind that we were to make a creative functional robot. We made sure not to comment on each others thoughts so all thoughts were allowed.

It was very interesting to see how different pictures generated different thoughts. There was a picture of an opera singer, and the thoughts there were: "Loud", "Hard work", "Love for your work", "Human interaction", "Service provider", "Sound recognition" and "Training algorithms". Another picture was of a cellphone and the thoughts there were: "Interface", "Monitoring", "Portability", "Connectivity", "Extension/Multi-functional", "Compact", "User experience", "New experience", and "Awareness/focus".

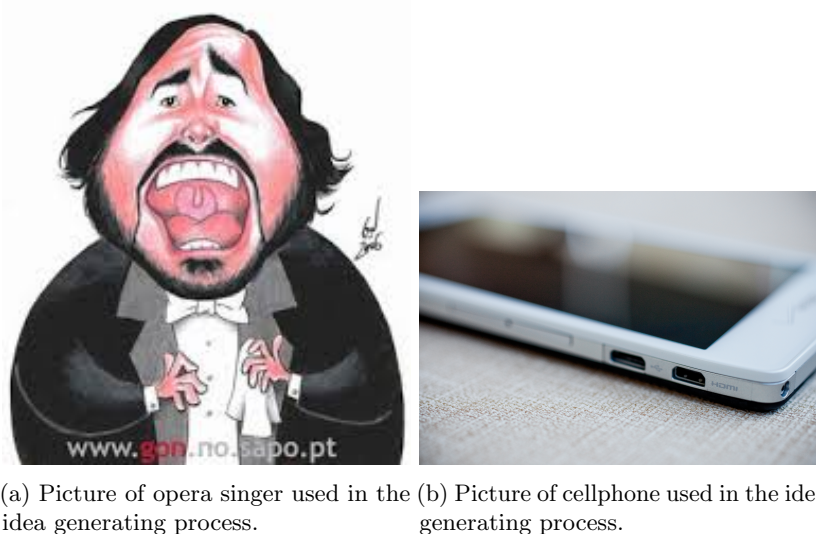


Figure 2.1: Pictures used in the idea generating process

In the beginning of this process several of us found it to be somewhat a waste of time. It was difficult to see how a picture of an opera singer should help us design a robot. After the process, however, we all agreed that we had come up with some really good words, and a lot of them were words that we would like to describe our product, e.g.: "Mobility", "Safety", "Combined knowledge", "Service provider" and "Precision". Other words we would have to make sure would not end up describing our product, e.g.: "Loud", "Danger", and "Legal issues".

2.2 Business Model Creator (IDEA - BMC)

After defining the business idea we wanted to specify problems that our idea could solve. To get the maximum from our idea, we decided to make a business plan. The question was how to generate cash flow and to create value for the customers and this helped us answer it. It helped us to better define the situation in which we found ourselves and the direction we should take.

We started with "Value Proposition", which should help us define the services we would like to provide and the products we will develop the business model for. We saw this step as very important and that it will define the course of our business plan, so we decided to spend some time thinking about how we could define what we are going to do and the value we want to create for potential customers.

In the end, we defined our customers as the companies in the welding industry. Companies working on improving the welding technology and companies with non-mass production. We expect the first to be interested in acquiring the technology to implement it to their own system to gain a competitive advantage and the latter one can use it to improve their production and facilitate flexibility of the production, making it possible for further customization of their products and reduction of costs and time.

In the next step, we began to define ideas related to the product. We saw an opportunity in creating value from our product as an innovation in areas, where the competitors failed to achieve it. We decided that the best option in terms of price of the final product would be to suit the current market price, as it would be almost impossible to sell it under the price and selling it with a high price would not be profitable for our customers as the value it creates for them is not crucial for their production.

Will have to make the following comments in reference to the product configuration:

- We are trusted partner in a highly integrated value chain. We focus on adding value in a very specific chain.
- As we focus on developing the technology necessary for the development of sensing system lines for automation of welding, a strong relation with our partners will be necessary, as we need the rest of the technology and components, in order to create the full product.
- Our processes will be quite the same as the industrial production in general:
 - Inbound logistics
 - Production
 - Outgoing logistics
 - Sales and marketing

There is also the financial part. Our prices depend on the product features. The more or the better the features, the higher the price, so it will be more expensive if we had to develop a new type of product with different specifications than if they buy the standard product. We will try to make a price list suitable to all kinds of potential customer's production.

Finally, we have the customer configuration table 2.1. We have an extremely narrow area of focus, but we can develop the product in response to the customer needs, which we know. As this is not a cheap product and the market is not that big, we will try to keep our customers through loyalty programs, where customers are rewarded for remaining loyal to our product. This is also a good way to acquire new customers, because if they are happy with the service/product we provide them, it is very likely that they will provide positive references and recommendations and spread the message about our product.

Customer Configuration				
Channel	Awareness	Evaluation	Purchase	After Sales
Internet	✓	✓	✓	✓
Product brochures		✓		
Journals	✓			

Table 2.1: Customer configuration

2.3 Brainstorm

One of the main techniques applied in the ideation process was brainstorming. In order to get the best outcome from this technique it is important that any idea, no matter the absurdity, is allowed on the drawing. Others may benefit from these seemingly absurd ideas. Early on in the ideation process there was a strong consensus in the group that we find our project in the waste recycling domain. Figure 2.2 shows the first brainstorm the group made.

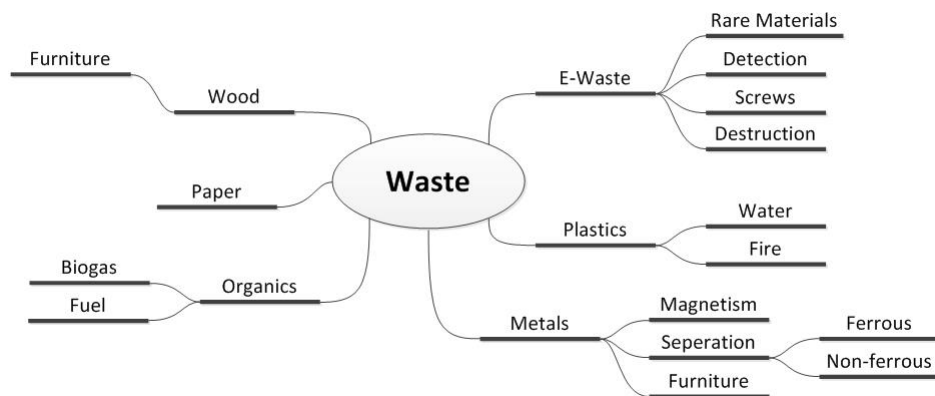


Figure 2.2: Brainstorm on different areas of waste recycling and possible ways of sorting

As can be seen, the two fields of metals and E-waste received the most interest. A vote was held to decide which of the two fields we were going to continue our research on. E-waste was chosen. To further specify the problem of our project another brainstorm was started, this time on different problems within the field of E-waste. The result can be seen in figure 2.3.

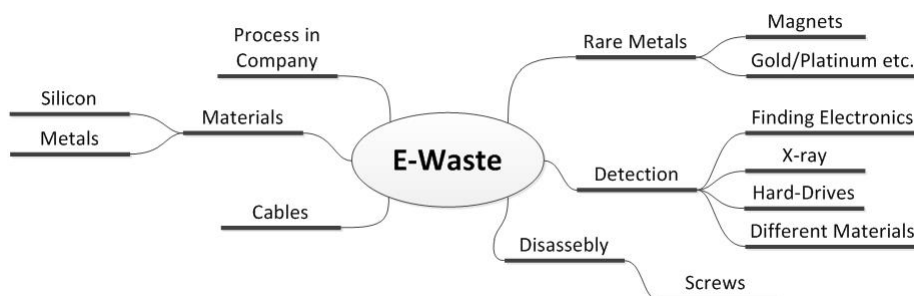


Figure 2.3: Brainstorm on problems within the field of E-Waste

No real result came from the brainstorm on E-Waste, and we came to the realisation that more research was needed for us to finalize our project idea. A list of questions was devised and each member assigned to do research on some of these questions.

At this point we were advised by the supervisors to either make a choice based on the research we had already done, or to go in another direction entirely. It was decided to do a brainstorm entirely focused on concepts, this can be seen in figure 2.4.

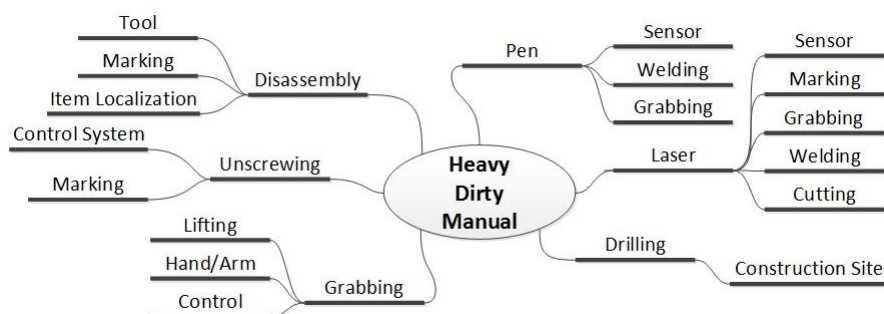


Figure 2.4: Brainstorm on possible concepts

Upon finishing the brainstorm the team split into two groups, each group discussing applications for each concept. Ultimately, we decided to focus our project on the development of a flexible welding robot, using a derivation of the pen principle.

3 Customer

Our direct customers are the companies that package and sell welding systems to other companies. These companies are responsible for getting in contact with the end users. They will know their needs and how to reach them. These users tend to be companies that produce small to medium batches, which typically have experience with the automation of welding robots.

We want to make it easy for our customers to package our solution with their existing products. To do this we will adapt our solution to be able to work with existing welding robots.

Despite all robots differences in protocol, the basic principal stays the same. To make a product as soon as possible we would start working with a single company so there is only one type of robot programming protocol.

4 Market

We want to focus on distributors located in Denmark. This makes logistical issues easier and until we have a product that we can send out everywhere we want to work closely with our customers.

One of our first customers would be Valk Welding. This company creates welding systems based on Panasonic robots. They try to create programs that makes easier the welding process, minimizing the time required to program the robot.

Valk weldings customers is mainly using offline programming. With a complete knowledge of the item that should be welded and the positioning of the robot they can program the way an item should be welded. The programming is made in a very high level language that keeps track of the coordinates, the speed and the angles of the weld. With macros that aid the programmer making the same routines in different places the time it takes to program the robot is drastically reduced.

We can add value to them by letting them expand to business that requires a more flexible solution

Another of our first customers would be the company Weld-Tech Aps. This company is already working with automatic welding, but currently has the restriction that all work pieces need to have a similar pattern. This might hinder their ability to attracting new customers.

This makes us able to solve one of their problems.

When the product is finished we want to expand to be able to use this technology for bigger and more complex welding jobs.

In the case of Valk welding we want to be able to replace the training course and the end customer will save money by having a smaller staff or producing more items. Currently a training course in online programming costs around 100,000 DKK. The average yearly pay of a welding robot programmer in 2012 was 300,000 DKK.

We need to find numbers from welding unions or something

5 Trends

The trends in the welding industry are constantly changing. Companies invest heavily in new technologies to gain a competitive advantage. This means that there are always incorporating new ideas to this sector, but we must always look at the cost stemming and the final price of the product, as SMEs are not willing to pay much for slightly improve welding method.

We need some kind of source on this

There are two programming paradigms that is used today.

One method is online programming, where programming is done by physically moving the robot around and logging the points it has to move. For a complex product, this may take up to 3 or 4 weeks.

Another method is offline programming where programming is done by making a program around a CAD model of the product. It usually takes 2 to 3 days to make a similar program.

The field of automatic programming is still in development and many companies create their prototypes. What stops

these products to become popular is it's tradeoff with a higher price without adding flexibility.

6 Expert skills

6.1 Technology description

The idea consists of a welding robot, which is able to recognize a line prepared for welding. To be able to do this, we have to use different technology, as it is a complex case that requires a variety of components to carry out this project.

It is necessary to have a welding robot with a lot of sensors to allow the robot to be more independent. Standard welding robot, which can support up to 6kg with a range of 810mm (to 5 axis) would be used. These robots are perfect for arc welding, assembly, cleaning etc. so it is ideal to use this type of robot.

We also have to take into account all types of protection needed for the implementation of these robots, in this case the following would be used:

- Foundry Plus
- Wash
- Clean Room ISO Class 6

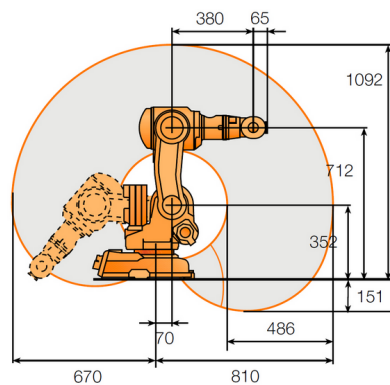


Figure 6.1: Possible type of robotic arm used

We would like the robot to be able to precisely weld holes, which can be as small as 0,1 mm. Precision of the robot is a key component for this task so we have to use a measuring tool.

The decision fell on a laser sensor capable of measuring the distance between the laser and the item prepared for welding, so knowing the position of the laser, we are able to calculate the position of the tool tip, in this case a welding pen. This will serve to correct deviations and obtain a uniform weld, because welding is performed at the same distance.

7 Business plan

7.1 Industry structure and environment

A meeting with Valk Welding in Nr. Åby gave us some insight in the robotic welding industry. Valk Welding sell total robotic welding solutions from Panasonic but with their own modified software. The market had a total sale of 22 units across the industry in 2013 in Denmark and with a few competitors¹ the market seems pretty tough. Valk Welding said that they did not do canvassing, the production companies came by themselves. Valk Welding offer two kind of programming solutions an online an a offline. The online solution means that the robot is programmed with the controller that is connected to the robot, so you can see how the robot is moving while programmed. This means that the robot can't work while being programmed and this can take up to several weeks. The offline solution takes place in a software program where a 3D-drawing of the object is uploaded. Here the programmer can program the robot while it is working. It takes 5-10 times as less time to program offline compared to online. The demand on the market is offline programming solutions because it gives a lot of flexibility.

A at robot exhibition in Copenhagen the 17th of November 2014 Valk Welding announced their "pistol"² for robotic welding. Within a 3D camera zone you take the pistol and place it where and how you want to weld, click it and then place it where the welding should end and click it³. Then the robot welds the marked area. This is though a slower process than the offline programming if a lot of weldings is needed.

7.2 Entry barriers

There are several entry barriers on the market. A big one is to compete with companies already in the industry with many years of experience and insight in customer demand and behavior. These companies are already working on solutions on what the marked demand. Flexibility.

7.3 Competitors

Valk Welding...

Megatronic

Fanuc

...

7.4 Competitive advantage and strategy

Our biggest advantage will be at SME where change in production and adjustments is happening very often and where no 3D-drawing has been made. In this situation our concept useful because a lot of programming time is need online as offline.

¹See 7.3

²Looks like the last joint of a welding robot

³Only works in a straight line though

7.5 Action and development plan

7.5.1 Strategic Plan

With this Strategic Plan we will try to define our objectives, politics and actions we will take in a long-medium term period (5 years approx). It is getting more and more important having a well defined Strategic Plan, here are some factors which prove it:

- Acceleration of technological change
- Increasing complexity of the managerial activity
- Increasing complexity of the external environment
- A longer interval between future results

Without an appropriate Strategic Plan, it easy to find with excesses of contingency, an absence of a measure to control the real success or failure of an administration or lack of criteria for deciding new investments and expenses to carry and control.

Mission

The Interflex mission is: Helping companies to achieve greater flexibility in welding processes, while we focus on technology investment.

With a fresh perspective on its mission and the environment in which we operate, Interflex will pursue the following strategic direction:

- Interflex will review and deepen its existing direct supports and services over time to ensure that we are working effectively with our customers.
- Interflex will further assess direct consumers needs to identify gaps or needed shifts in service delivery. This assessment will serve as the basic for expanding or adding new services.
- Interflex will emphasize building its its discretionary financial resources to invest in providing quality services. This include developing new technology and establishing new trade relations, in order to obtain greater capital investment.

Goals

1- Department of marketing

Greater participation and market consolidation in the Denmark, through actions that would achieve differentiation welding robots such as high-value and useful products.

2- Department of financial management

Purchase accounting software that helps to control and order of financial records, to minimize the waiting time for results or statistical data and financial statements of the company.

3- Management area

Design an organizational plan that contributes to the development and implementation of all activities, operations and business goals by generating an essential control tool for timely decision making.

4- Department of services, repair and maintenance

Better manage service plans for a set period, which will allow the company to increase profitability according to business requirements.

7.5.2 Action plan

Finally, based on all the concepts that we have developed so far, we will develop an action plan, which will be properly aligned with who we are and what we want to be.

We have decided that we will develop an action plan based on four areas of action:

1. Financial Planning
2. Customer
3. Internal organization
4. Staff

1. Financial Planning

1.1 Objective –İ Increase revenue

Actions –İ Determine each January Commercial Purpose of year.

Develop in the last quarter of the year, within the Management Plan, Sales Plan with specific actions.

Monthly monitoring of the sales plan.

Dates –İ Annual (from January to December)

1.2 Objective –İ Maintain profitability

Actions –İ Preparation of annual budget.

Establish a Cost Control system.

Plan each January the use of resources (human and material).

Dates –¿ Annual (from January to December)

1.3 Objective –¿ Maintain margin

Actions –¿ Establish criteria for sale.

Tracking margins

Dates –¿ Annual (from January to December)

2. Clients

2.1 Objective –¿ Technical advisory

Actions –¿ Classification of the most important products for Valk Welding, annual or future billing.

Sales plan

Number of suggestions for improvement of information.

Dates –¿ A year

2.2 Objective –¿ Quick response

Actions –¿ Set maximum response time to customers.

Analyse the causes of time to resolve queries.

Dates –¿ From March to June.

2.3 Objective –¿ Range of product-service

Actions –¿ Identify range of interesting products for Valk Welding.

Deciding which products will be marketed and which not.

Dates –¿ From January to March

3. Internal Organization

3.1 Objective –¿ Knowledge of competition.

Actions –¿ Carry out a survey, comparing us with the competition.

Prepare a database of works with similar products supplied by competition.

Dates –¿ Every year

3.2 Objective –¿ Improve the quality

Actions –¿ Identify and implement the processes necessary for the operation of the company.

Number of processes implemented within the year.

Number of suggestions for improvement in processes.

Dates –¿ Every year

4. Personal

4.1 Objective –¿ Formation.

Actions –¿ Identify areas of training required.

Encourage the implementation of actions already designed in the different objectives and processes scheduled.

Dates –¿ Every year.

4.2 Objective –¿ Enhance communication.

Actions –¿ Develop a manual of behaviour for communication.

Receiving information: Collect staff initiatives.

Dates –¿ Every year

(MAKE A TABLE WITH THIS)

7.6 Tactical Plan

Once we have defined all our goals and tactics in a medium to long term, it is time to design the tactical plan. To do this we must make a projection of current activities and development, and make a prognosis and planning of new programs and business operations for the future. At this stage we will define the objectives, tactics, programs and budgets that will conduct the company. This is process by which detailed plans are carried out, taking into account the development of resources for Strategic Planning.

Objectives

Our objectives in the medium-short term (a year approx) will be the next ones:

- Get funding to create and start developing the company.
- Develop the capacity to compete in the marketplace technology.
- Consolidate the company through the support of our main customer, Valk Welding.

Tactical programs 1.1 Marketing program

- Challenge the national market with products of the company.

1.2 Production program

- Develop and implement the technology needed to obtain the final product.

This is a plan for the first year, so this is what we are looking for. Next years we will have different problems in this area, but right now, we should focus on developing the build the robot,. We will have time to optimize all the production process during the next years, but first we need to have the product.

1.3 Staff development program

- Train the staff in order to be able to develop all our processing plan.

As it is a new technology, we must train operators to be capable of working with the necessary machinery.

1.4 Financial program

- Funding and reduce costs.

Tactics and costs

1.1 In order to challenge the national market, we are going to make a market analysis to know what exactly they are looking for. We are going to call them and see what they need, so we can modify our robot in a future. It also will help Valk Company to sell our robots, if we show them our result of our market analysis. 1.2 SOME TACTICS TO DEVELOP THE TECHNOLOGY? 1.3 Valk Comapany will provide us some training courses for the operators who need training on advanced programming about welding. FINISH WITH THIS PART (1.3 AND 1.4) 1.4 COST?

STEP BY STEP - FROM WHERE WE ARE NOW UNTIL WE FINISH DEVELOPING THE INITIAL TECHNOLOGY 2.PAGES APROX.