

Products

VA Technology's R3 Series Offers Robotic Grinding, Cost Savings, Performance Benefits

In times of financial hardship, foundries worldwide are seeking methods to reduce costs in order to remain afloat in today's global market. Casting finishing is an area of the process where significant cost savings are achievable through implementation of technology to yield significant performance benefits.

VA Technology Ltd., a leading technology supplier of shellroom systems and foundry solutions for the investment casting industry, has introduced its R3 series of robotic grinding systems.

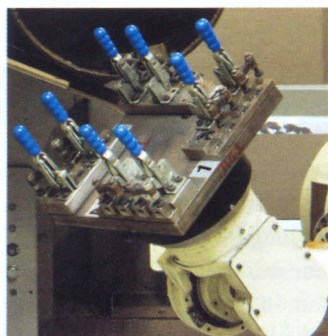


The R3 system delivers a low-cost, compact, easily applied solution, suitable for virtually all component types in commercial, medical and aerospace industries.

The system uses a standard 'flyte' plate to which simple fixtures can be attached. The plate is automatically interchangeable, which allows the customer to have plates, all grinding different part types.

James Beddoes from VA states, "Fixturing is very simple. For testing, we can weld and bolt fixtures together in a simple fashion, since the software allows the part to be in any position on the plate. This avoids expensive machining to

make fixtures, offering a low-cost do-it-yourself solution. A typical caster's workshop can literally make its own fixture in a matter of hours. As a result, the system is flexible and suitable for companies producing both small and large batch sizes, even rapid prototyping facilities"



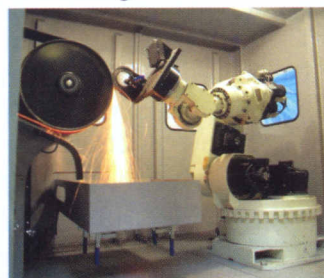
Programming of the R3 system is simple, with typical component setup times of around 30 minutes. Flat, round and random surface profiles can be ground using a number of easy setup features.

Automatic setup for simple parts allows the operator to enter a number of parameters via a question sequence. The system then transforms these parameters into movements of the robot at the grinding wheel. On completion of the grinding process, the operator must approve the part or make simple adjustments until the satisfactory component finish is achieved. For more complex parts, a point-to-point teaching operation is available.

Any trained individual within the foundry can program the system. Foundries using the VA system use existing per-

sonnel, thus reducing the need for expensive programmers.

This also encourages flexibility of workforce; for example, employees from the wax department can also work in finishing.



The power grinder and robot combination allows additional features such as

automatic belt wear compensation and belt width usage optimization.

A recent installation at Investcast Minneapolis, MN (USA) has yielded numerous benefits according to Director Bill Walker Jr.

"The system has reduced scrap rates on certain parts where a critical angle or dimension cannot consistently be achieved by a manual process. We now have minimal set-up time for new components thus shortening our production time and allowing us to be more competitive in the rapid prototyping market"

**VA
TECH**

IC- Aerospace
PRECISION

IC- Commercial

IC- Medical



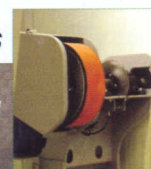
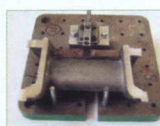
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