AUTOMATED KITTING; PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

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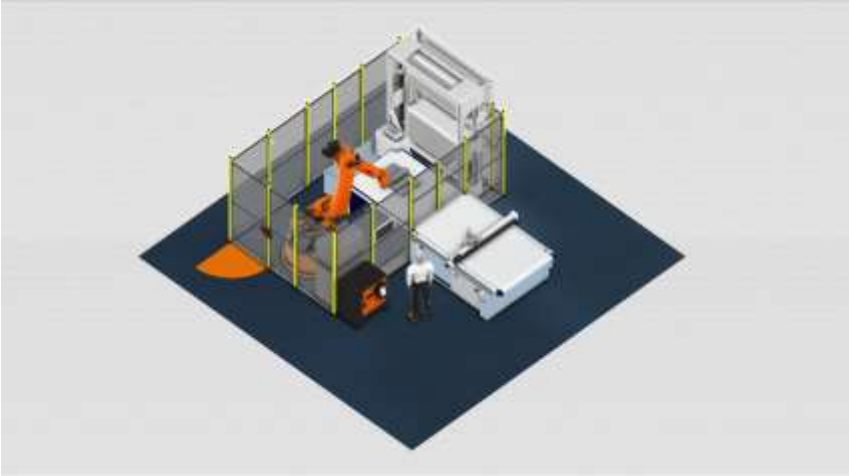
So far kitting has been a labour intensive job, that needs to be done, and nobody actually likes it. Especially not the parts and aircraft manufacturers. This created, obviously, a business for people who take a job nobody likes and turn it into a profitable business. Everybody wins. This is the past where kitting companies, presented a kitting solution for composite parts manufacturers.



Now it is the future of kitting that is interesting. We have the full capability of advanced nesting software, often much more capable than we can use (take dynamic nesting, or prepreg warehouse inventory) and we have the capability of a robotised integrated buffer system that always knows where any ply, coming from the cutting table, is and needs to be. So what happens when these two systems are joined. Imagine 8 laminating cells waiting for their kits, all in their own time. On the other side a freezer with prepreg rolls, both fresh and some close to expiry date. In between one or two fully automated cutting tables, one or two robots and two buffer stations. All joint by a digital backbone communicating forth and back. The automated kitting system will be able to optimize both material utilisation and laminating throughput, with just in time delivery of fully ordered kits. It can fast-track certain kits, or material streams due to expiry dates or shelf lifes and laminating cell availability. Now that is the future of kitting, which we'll explain to you.