



Productivity Inc[®]

Productivity Redefines Automation – Its Name: RoboFlex™

With today's global challenges, precision contract manufacturers and job shops are faced with increased competition and more demanding expectations from their customers. Smaller lot sizes, shorter delivery times and more precise tolerances are expected in addition to lower prices.

Staying Competitive

Staying competitive will take change. Many believe robotics and automation is expensive, difficult to implement, and requires high volumes of parts on dedicated equipment to justify. Not today! Robotics and automation is now more flexible, affordable, and more user-friendly than ever before. All manufacturers should consider implementing robotics and automation to stay competitive in today's world market.

A Robotics and Automation Leader Emerges

For four decades, Productivity Inc has earned a reputation as a leading supplier of high-quality CNC machine tools and accessories. Productivity was founded with the philosophy that service and support were the most important elements in creating a successful, reputable business. Today the company still adheres to these founding principles, by not only maintaining a full staff of experienced service and application engineers, but by developing the future of industrial robotics and automation. As a result, Productivity's Automation group is helping manufacturers become more competitive in today's global market.

Introducing RoboFlex™

In order to meet the needs of the different manufacturing processes, while still using existing technologies, Productivity developed several packaged integrated robotic solutions with its RoboFlex line of automatic robotics. RoboFlex is not only a product, but also a philosophy for automation. The idea behind RoboFlex is one of pre-defined packages of equipment (i.e. robot, conveyors, accessories, etc.) that can

be redeployed with different machine tools and jobs, with minimal engineering costs. Precision contract manufacturers and job shops that require the flexibility and ability to easily add new parts as business demands change will benefit greatly by employing this system. RoboFlex is a flexible solution to today's manufacturing challenges that will lower initial investment, shorten lead times and provide predictable results.

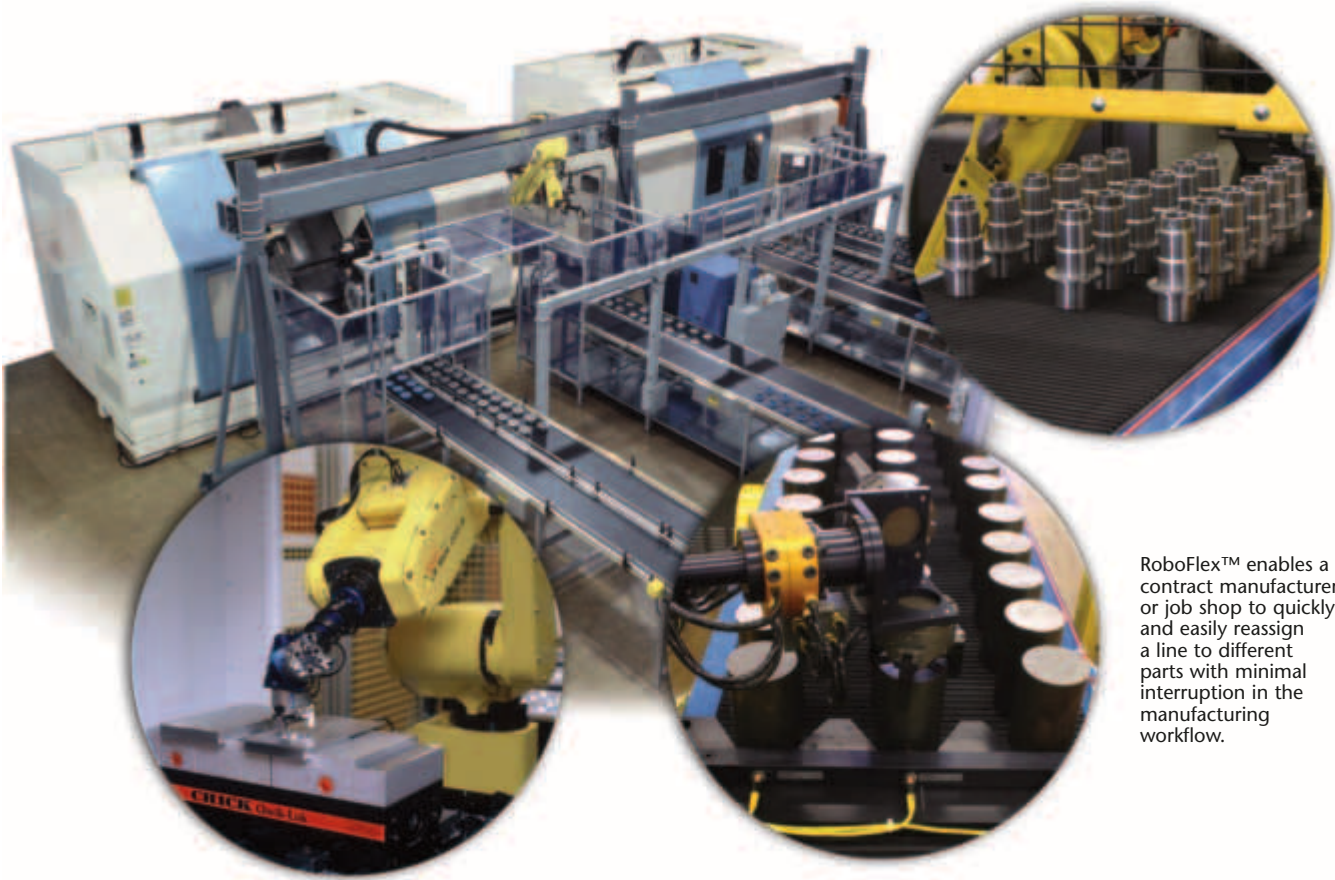
Productivity has many success stories that demonstrate how robotics has been integrated into daily manufacturing life. A case in point involves a contract manufacturer in central Minnesota. Productivity added a simple robotic loader to an existing process that wasn't producing as many parts per day as was originally expected due to extra inspection, de-burring, and cleaning required by the cell operator. This robotic loader took over the load/unload task of this operation, freeing up the operator to complete the extra tasks. The production rate also



RoboFlex™ I - Automatic Pallet Loader



RoboFlex™ II - Mid-Size Part Handling



RoboFlex™ enables a contract manufacturer or job shop to quickly and easily reassign a line to different parts with minimal interruption in the manufacturing workflow.

went up 50%. This system saved the shop money through labor savings, and increased the number of parts that they could ship each and every day. This turned an unpleasant job in the shop into one that meets the expectations of the shop.

“Productivity’s Automation group is helping manufacturers become more competitive in today’s global market.”

Another case study involved a small manufacturer in the Twin Cities that was considering whether to hire new employees to fulfill a large production contract. This contract would require their machining equipment to run two shifts in order to make the production requirement. Productivity installed a RoboFlex pallet transfer system for this customer.

This system lets them run approximately 12 hours of untended production, allowing them to manufacture parts without having to hire additional help. They have to unload finished parts, replace them with raw material, check on the status of the cutting tools, and replenish tools, and coolant as needed for another 12 hour run. This attention takes less than 1 hour to complete, allowing them full production with minimum attention by a cell operator.

Productivity is an integrated and single source supplier of robotic systems. They provide project coordination for a facility’s entire robotic cell from the idea stage, through integration, installation, and finally through the working life of the equipment. This unique “one-stop-shop” approach is something that only Productivity Inc can offer.

For information on how you can become globally competitive call the Robotics experts at Productivity today. – PM

RoboFlex™ is a trademark of Productivity Inc.