Fructus Data launches ToolSpace

ToolSpace – flexible robotic storage, made in Sweden

"We have for several years been working intensively on the development of mechanics , control systems and software with the goal of providing the most cost-effective robotic storage machine, and now we are finally ready for production," says Lars Bengtson, project manager and designer of ToolSpace. "With ToolSpace, we can now offer a flexible storage machine that helps our customers to bind less capital, while the solution also helps customer to systematize."

Image above: ToolSpace takes up minimal floor space but provides maximum storage space. The ergonomics are very good with a counter for loading and fetching, as well as hefty display at eye level.

Compact plug'n'play storage

ToolSpace is a compact "Plug and Play" storage for tools and other smaller items. It is controlled via a database that can be accessed over the network, and henceforth even via mobile phone / tablet. ToolSpace only takes up 1sqm of floor space and accommodates 200 to 2000 trays depending on how one disposes the space. The goal with ToolSpace is to save capital in the articles that are critical of a business through a permanent awareness on what is in stock. ToolSpace can be used for all types of smaller items in all kinds of industries for example as manufacturing, medicine, retail, construction and more. ToolSpace is ready to be used immediately upon delivery, plug it into the wall socket (230V) and connect it to the network and start using the system.

Availability and inventory
ToolSpace has a built-in PC and works with a database that keeps track of all items. A automatic backup function is integrated. Inventory balance is always available which makes inventory checking abreeze. In daily use, the system generates a list of the items available in too small quantity, so the purchase personnel knows what needs to be ordered.

ToolSpace in the workshop environment
If one is to run a job in a CNC machine and the tools required for the job are not in stock, this creates unnecessary and costly downtime. When programming via a CAM program one want's to know if a tool is available in the shop. With ToolSpace and ToolManager, which is integrated into GibbsCAM, the CNC programmer has all this information at his fingertips and can avoid unnecessary downtime. Much more effective than having to run out on the shopfloor and look in drawers.

The benefits of a robot storage are numerous
When you add articles ToolSpace automatically suggests a storage space for the items you want to put in the storage. You just specify length width height and number, and it will calculate and allocate the necessary space. Every time you pick up or enter a item the logfile and inventory is updated.

Photo above: If something unexpected happens, ToolSpace can be operated manually thanks to the sliding side door . The number of compartments in the drawers can be individually configured .

No downtime
Should the cabinet be energized so provides Tool Space also full manual handling. During a power outage , simply open the side doors and then you have a manually manageable shelving where each box has its own ID . Information about balance and place are all the time in the log file that is placed on an internal USB drive or another computer on the network.

Adding / Withdrawing items

Some automated systems only allow items to be added by the admin. ToolSpace can define how this should work, all users can be set to enter or withdraw items. This is typically important in a mechanical workshop where used tools very often are placed back in the storage after use.

ToolSpace options:
- Servo-controlled shutters, allow only certain compartments of the box to be accessed
- Automatic real-time view of the storage compartment, accessible over the network
- Automatic image of item at every return and withdrawal
- Barcode scanners, fixed or cord -bound
- Different box types / different compartment sizes
- Supplier Access
- Access to Tool Manager and GibbsCAM

Photo above: The optional servo-controlled shutters (red) , prevent the user from accidentally inserting or withdrawing item from wrong compartment.

Made in Sweden

"The design is Swedish, and we are happy to say that also all the mechanical components are manufactured by Swedish subcontractors. Production has now begun and the first deliveries will take place during October 2016, " says Mikael Bagge at Fructus .

More information:
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