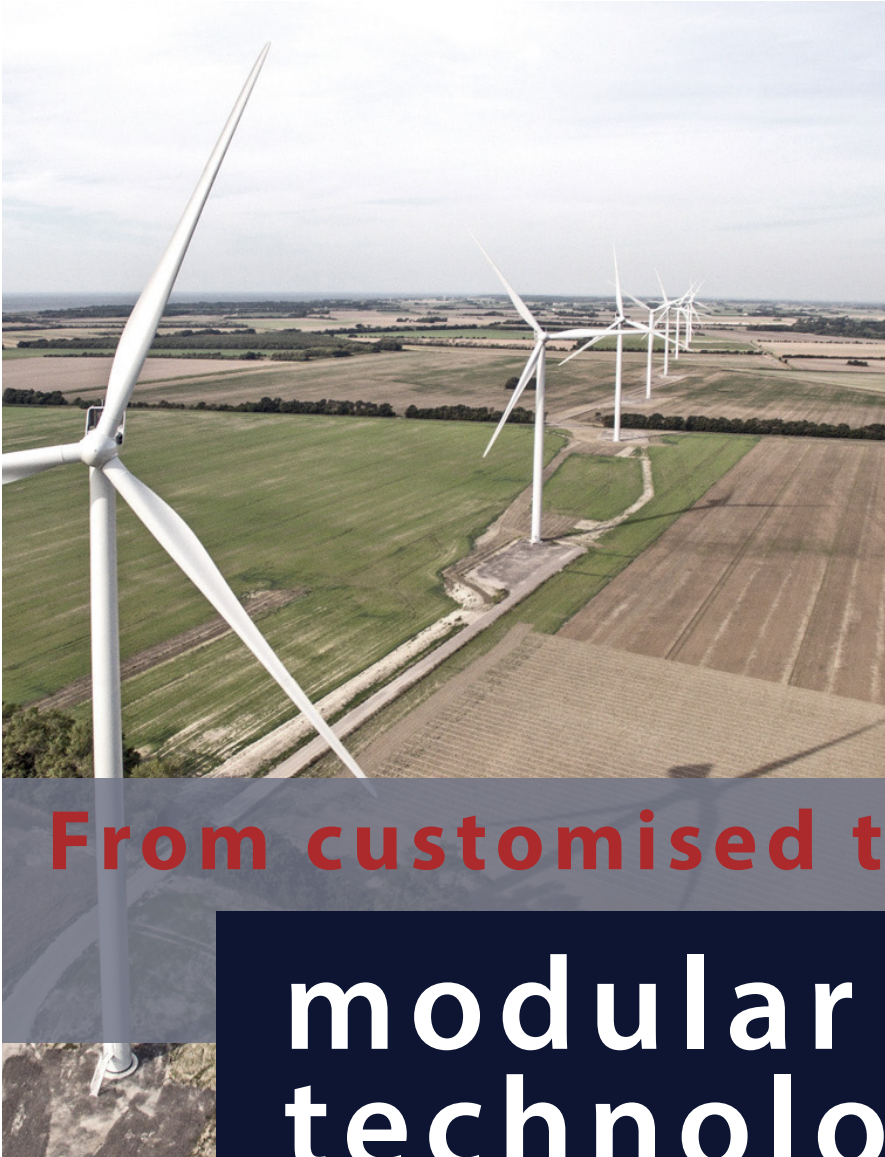


NEW GRIPPER SOLUTION REDUCES RISK OF BREAKDOWN AT VESTAS AND INCREASES CAPACITY



Bolts play a major role in the wind turbine industry; they are part of the wind turbine all the way from the top to the bottom and they help to keep the wings spinning in all kinds of weather among other things.

Production of bolts requires lubrication, which at Vestas was previously done manually.

To strengthen productivity, Vestas therefore wanted to invest in a reliable industrial robot that could automate the lubrication of bolts at the production plant in Ringkøbing.

From customised to

modular
technology

Vestas A/S

“ The development of production technology is going strong. As a company, it is always good to keep in mind whether there are newer and better solutions on the market than the existing solutions. Are there possibilities for optimising the processes? Working closely with experts who have their finger on the technological pulse is very valuable. For us, the close dialogue paid off right away, and the new solution will quickly be earned back. ”

Erling Munch Thomsen, Vestas A/S.

Vestas' existing spindle tool was a specially developed solution that was both expensive and time-consuming. Furthermore, the risk of prolonged downtime when replacing a part made bolt production vulnerable.

In order to reap more productivity gains and minimise the risk, Vestas wanted to replace the specially developed solution with a modular, lighter and more efficient gripper solution that could accelerate production and increase capacity.



THE SOLUTION

For Vestas, the collaboration with Technicon resulted in the replacement of the existing gripper solution with an efficient, lighter and more precise SCHUNK gripper solution weighing just 2.4 kg.

The industrial robot operates with a spindle tool-based gripper solution that handles the bolts with the same tool, which are manufactured in the dimensions 6 mm - 36 mm.

AUTOMATION STRENGTHENED THE PRODUCTIVITY

In addition to the new solution being module-based, the gripping solution also weighs less than half. It makes it easy, simple and fast: rapid deployment, fast changeover time and high uptime means that you can constantly optimize production.



VESTAS' BENEFIT

The robot investment was quickly a success and automation significantly boosted productivity. The robot solution has run an average of 88% occupancy during the day, and the robot had earned itself back after just two years.

“The new gripper solution is absolutely fantastic! It is much faster and has strengthened our productivity considerably. Productivity has increased by 1.5-2 seconds per bolt. Since we manufacture 8,000 bolts a day (4,000 per shift), this solution saves us a lot of costs. We win 5 minutes per box, has increased machine capacity by + 20% and freed up time. In addition, we save on repair and maintenance costs. “

Erling Munch Thomsen, Vestas A/S.