

Company: Applied Automation Ltd

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Subject: Machine frames made easy

Many manufacturers of special purpose machinery, in the UK, are switching over from fabricated machine frames to more flexible solutions using extruded aluminium profiles. Applied Automation, the UK supplier for MayTec, offer a comprehensive range of aluminium profiles and accessories which can be used in various applications including machine guarding, work & assembly stations and, of course, machine frames.

For the special purpose machine manufacturer, choosing the right product & supplier for the machine frame can be as important as delivering the finished manufacturing solution to the end customer on time and to spec. Very often the benefit of such a flexible solution can make a difference of weeks to the delivery, even with each profile system having its own characteristics or perhaps by having a "standard" machine base which can be adapted further down the machine design process.

This is one of the reasons why OpTek Systems, an Oxford based manufacturer of advanced laser processing and inspection tools, chose Applied Automation & MayTec as their preferred machine enclosure solution. Recognising the need for a quick turn around to meet the demands of their customers, OpTek Systems have developed a range of laser micro machining systems that take advantage of the flexible and adaptable nature of such machine frames. Due to the required precision needed for their laser micro machining systems they use a fabricated machine sub frame which supports the optical platform, then by using the MayTec profile system create a frame which allows them to "part build" the machine prior to the final specification being drawn up by their end customer, thus reducing the lead time of the machine and aiding the design cycle. The added benefit of using this type of machine frame or enclosure is the ability to mount hardware directly onto it by utilising the T-slot built into the extrusion.

OpTek Systems do not limit their involvement to the laser micro machining system, but will also engage in the complete production process by handling the product prior to machining and also by removing the bi product of the machining process. Where possible they aim to integrate their system into the customer's complete production line.

When asked why their chosen supplier was Applied Automation and why MayTec, Gavin Stockford, Operations Manager said "the simple assembly of the MayTec profile system is key. We have tried other similar systems and found that with them you either need 3 hands to assemble it or that the captive nuts do not hold in place, the MayTec solution is far easier to assemble". In addition the ease of assembly which, incidentally, is down to the

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unique way in which MayTec have designed their captive nuts, Gavin was also full of praise for the design & support team at Applied Automation where his comment sums it all up. "The team at Applied Automation know what they are at! A simple phone call detailing the problem is solved quickly due to their knowledge and experience".

This is music to the ears of the Applied Automation team who take pride in their system design and aim to exceed the expectations of the customer, offering a free system design service and able to deliver profiles from stock, all aid their goal.

Principal Sales Consultant at OpTek System, Mr Gideon Foster-Turner commented that "off the shelf components allow a more competitive solution, and having a standard platform ensures a bespoke machine can be housed within, improving our delivery times". OpTek Systems have success across many industries & covering many applications with their laser production solutions including fuel injectors, aerosol manufacture and the processing of optical fibre terminations.

To learn more about the laser production solutions from OpTek Systems visit www.optek.co.uk, and for further information on the aluminium profile systems available from Applied Automation visit www.maytec-uk.co.uk.

More information

Applied Automation is a privately owned company, founded in 1986, which prides itself on delivering high standards in customer service. There are three facet's to the business covering manufacturing of control systems and machine design & build, the supply of automation & industrial control products and also the application and supply of the MayTec aluminium profile system They are proud to have successfully built up a reputation in providing an excellent level of service. This has been achieved through a combination of excellence, including the product range on offer allowing exceptional build quality, the availability of product ensuring prompt delivery times and the help available from their friendly experienced team of Engineers. The Applied Automation customers come from all sectors of industry including Automotive, Aerospace, Nuclear, Chemical & Pharmaceutical from machine builders to manufacturers and end users, with this level of experience it is no accident that our knowledge is so extensive!

For further information

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