

Automotive maker automates label printing, raising productivity by 18%

Case study

Toyota Motor East Japan, Inc.



- Business: Planning, R&D and production of automotive parts, passenger vehicles and welfare vehicles
- Employees: 7,300 (As of April 1, 2021)

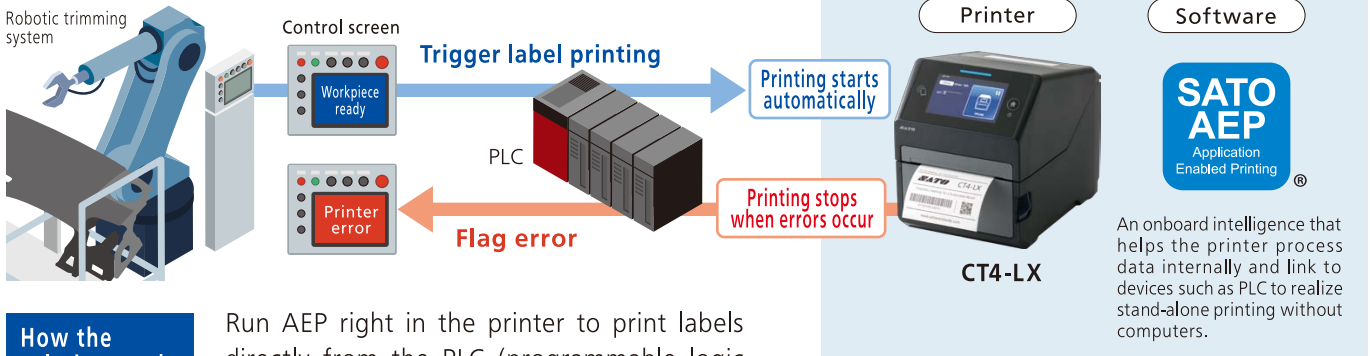
Company website



Background

Toyota Motor East Japan, subsidiary of the Toyota Group, develops and manufactures compact cars which include the Toyota Yaris, winner of the European Car of the Year Award for 2021. Its Iwate plant was looking to further improve how it was printing labels used to identify finished instrument panels with different specifications.

Solution



How the solution works

Run AEP right in the printer to print labels directly from the PLC (programmable logic controller) upon completion of workpiece.

SATO products

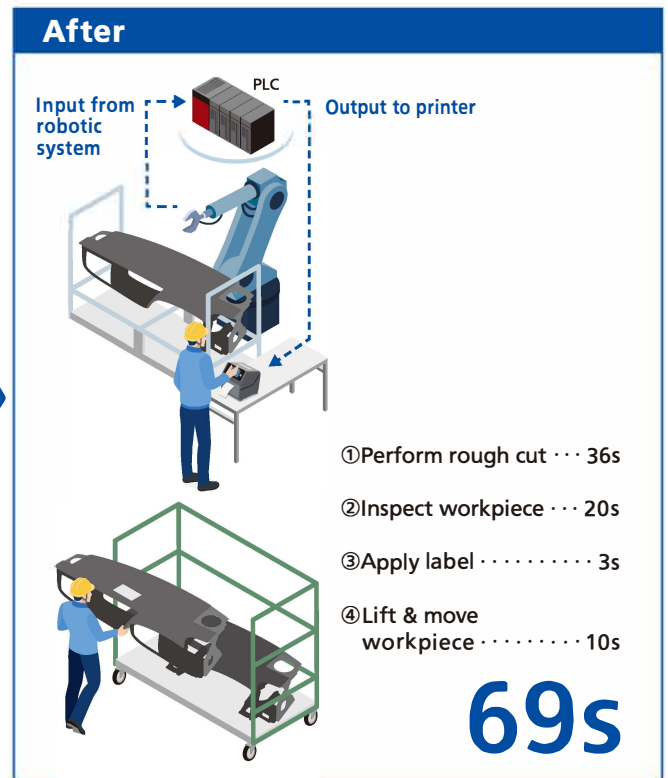
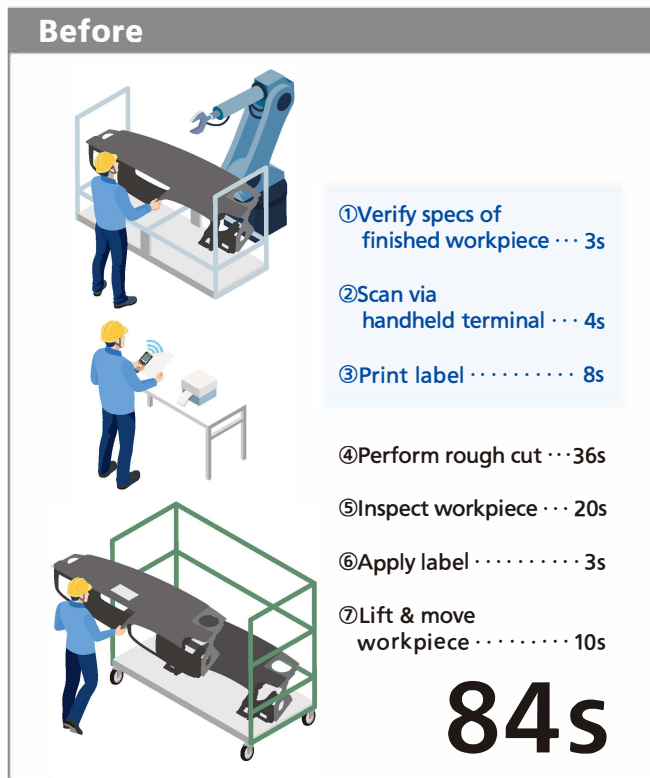
Before

- Workers relied on handheld terminals to capture data for printing labels.
- Workers made printing mistakes sometimes, leading to label wastage or mislabeling.
- Workers needed to be trained in label printing.

After

- Higher productivity as workers no longer spend time operating scanners or printers.
- No human errors with the automation of label printing.
- No workers or worker training needed for label printing.

With SATO's AEP solution, workers engage in less manual tasks, saving 15 seconds per workflow.



● What the customer says

Takeshi Suzuki, Chief Expert of Painting & Plastics Molding Division

Eliminating visual checks, a source of stress for workers

SATO's AEP solution has made work a lot easier at our Iwate plant. Previously, workers were under pressure to manually check each workpiece for its specifications before scanning and printing. They could not afford mistakes and needed to be careful handling the costly handheld terminals. Now workpieces are engineered to the right

specifications by the robotic system using parts supplied from the previous workflow, and the corresponding information automatically printed on labels for applying to the finished workpieces. Besides this workflow, we will also look into ensuing workflows and take new challenges to further boost overall productivity.

Akihiro Ishigaki, Assistant Manager of Body Design Division No. 2

Customizing printer operations with AEP to solve our problem

I was in charge of production planning for instrument panels (IPs) going into the Toyota Yaris and Yaris Cross models. As there was demand for IPs with and without the display audio head unit, it was decided through discussions with members of the Iwate plant that we would print and apply labels to identify finished IPs of different specifications and check them during pre-shipment inspection. But when we headed

into mass production, it became clear that these extra tasks intended to prevent shipment errors were adding to the workload of our workers. Wanting to do something about the situation, we consulted SATO, who helped develop a solution suited to our workflows. We hope to stay competitive with our plant operations and achieve manufacturing excellence in the automotive industry.

SATO Corporation

Contact your local SATO representative for more information:
www.sato-global.com/contact/

■ All information in this leaflet is accurate as of August 2021.
 ■ Product specifications are subject to change without notice.
 ■ Any unauthorized reproduction of this content, in part or whole, is strictly prohibited.
 ■ All software, product or company names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.