



When you have a question about inspection, think VisTec Engineering

Leaders in the manufacturing process revolution identify machine vision as a key element in strategic business planning.

Machine vision is a key element of the manufacturing strategy of companies driven by the growing importance of improving product quality and reducing cost. Although machine vision is still far from imitating human vision, most industrial applications do not require human-like performance. Machine vision can model acceptable conditions consistently; thereby reliably detecting anomalous conditions. Machine vision delivers data, such as statistics, status and trends of the process, allowing companies to take corrective action before the process exceeds factory tolerances.

Machine vision technology has been widely adopted throughout virtually all manufacturing industries. The industry infrastructure has matured. Microprocessors can now provide the performance required to handle the majority of vision applications. Solid-state imagers provide the stability required to assure repeatable input data into the vision engine. Lighting and optics are now better understood. All the components have come down in price. The result is that more applications can be addressed cost effectively.

Companies that do not adopt machine vision technology as an integral part of their continuous improvement strategy will undoubtedly lose market share to companies who offer competing products whose satisfactory performance and reliability is virtually guaranteed by machine vision. The skill mix required to apply machine vision is widespread. Many companies have staff with experience in applying the technology. In addition, there are many system integrators and suppliers of application-specific machine vision with the experience required to help you develop a successful application.

The benefits of improved quality and productivity quickly pays for machine vision systems and provides the competitive edge to achieve marketing and business growth objectives by lowering costs.

Marketing objectives include:

- Increased market share.
- Improved customer satisfaction and lower warranty costs.
- Penetration of new niche markets.
- Pricing flexibility and participation in price elastic markets.

Machine vision can make a similar contribution to achieving product quality and manufacturing cost improvement by providing:

- Lower inventories.
- Fewer production overruns.
- Reduced labor costs.
- Less rework and production/machine downtime.
- Avoidance of inspection bottlenecks.
- Elimination of adding value to scrap conditions

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In addition, the following costs are generally avoided or reduced:

- Cost of recruiting and training.
- Scrap/rework created while learning a new job.
- Average workers' compensation paid for injuries.
- Average educational grant per employee.
- Personnel/payroll department costs per employee

Overall, the deployment of machine vision will result in improved, consistent and predictable quality. This, in turn, will yield improved customer satisfaction and an opportunity to increase market share -- the biggest payback of all.