



"Since we started using EquipmentCloud®, we've been able to accelerate the commissioning of our robotic systems by 30 % and set up our services digitally."

Peter Seydel,
Department Manager
Customer Service, Fabmatics GmbH




DIGITAL SERVICE PLATFORM SPEEDS UP COMMISSIONING

Automating material flows and handling processes require solutions that are tailored to the customer's processes down to the smallest detail. The transport and handling systems must fit exactly into the entire process. The documentation for these kinds of projects is complex and predestined for loss of information, which makes the commissioning of the systems correspondingly complex.

Fabmatics GmbH, a specialist in automation and robotics of material flows and handling processes in the semiconductor industry solved these challenges using the Kontron AIS digital service platform **EquipmentCloud®**.

Fabmatics has now been organizing the commissioning of its HERO® Fab mobile systems digitally for several months, increasing process speed by 30% and creating a central machine database. The autonomous transport robots are used in semiconductor factories around the world.

Fabmatics GmbH
Dresden

Project:
Digitization of the commissioning process for mobile handling systems

Platform:
EquipmentCloud®,
Oracle Cloud
Infrastructure (OCI)

Kontron AIS services
Consulting,
launch workshop,
service and support



CHALLENGE

- ▶ No standardized and up-to-date data structures
- ▶ Lengthy commissioning process
- ▶ Service technicians need comprehensive specialist knowledge at all times



SOLUTION

- ▶ Create a complete machine database
- ▶ Standardize work processes using digital checklists
- ▶ Automate master data upload via integrated interface (API)



RESULT

- ▶ Automate master data upload via integrated interface (API)
- ▶ Reduction of in-house commissioning and final acceptance by 50 %
- ▶ Acceleration of the commissioning process by 30 %

SET A FRAMEWORK FOR AUTOMATING THE PROCESS

Fabmatics' special solutions require service employees to be equipped with expertise for their work at all times and throughout the entire life cycle of each machine. With standard tools such as e-mail, Microsoft Office and data storage on file servers, they kept on reaching their limits. Consequently, the job instructions and documentation available during service calls were not up to date and it took time to search for the required documents.

Since commissioning is usually carried by teams in rotation, the work progress of the individual teams was difficult to track. This involved time-consuming coordination and unnecessary additional effort. In addition, overlapping areas of functionality made it difficult to prepare data efficiently due to inconsistent, compulsory and standardized data structures.



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Fabmatics formulated a clear goal: Automate complex commissioning processes for the HERO® Fab mobile robot product sector.

In detail, it specified:

- ▶ All project participants must be involved at the right time and kept up to speed.
- ▶ Information about the equipment must be available in full and on time at all times.
- ▶ Checklists and work processes must be standardized and digitized in order to create a system file for the entire life cycle of each machine over the long term.

The Kontron AIS digital service solution **EquipmentCloud®**, which is based on the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure as software-as-a-service, was implemented to achieve these goals.

PHASE 1: MAP ALL THE VARIANTS

A comprehensive systems file had to be created as the basis for implementation. The first step in this was to map the product portfolio and then organize the master data. The wide range of variants of the HERO® Fab mobile robots required a well thought-out structure. A total of 82 types of equipment could then be organized in a multi-level equipment and type

hierarchy. Basic master data and extended master data were sorted and defined according to product-specific categories.

PHASE 2: IMPLEMENT THE COMMISSIONING PROCESS IN EQUIPMENTCLOUD®

Launching **EquipmentCloud®** meant rethinking the commissioning processes. The Fabmatics service technicians as well as application and development engineers took this task and developed new standardized procedures.

The development department provided documentation and instructions for this purpose. The service department was responsible for creating and maintaining work processes and detailed checklists in the Workflows app.



All the necessary tasks including detailed work instructions (e.g. inputting values for calibrating cameras on the mobile robot's chassis, uploading log files as well as visual component confirmations) could be stored and simply checked off in the checklists. The additional documentation of skills ensured that each user met the necessary requirements for implementation.

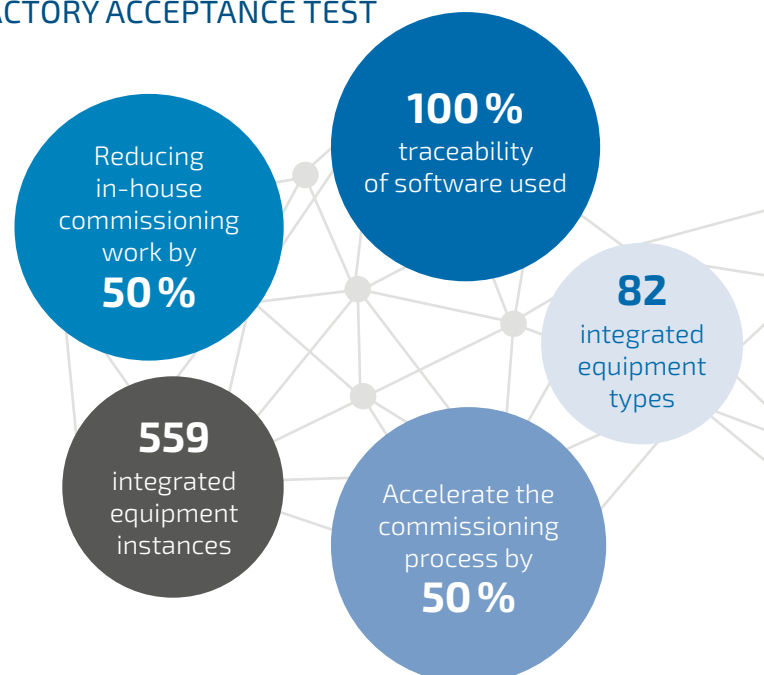
The workflows are modular and presented as a task board. This means that the processing of tasks can be interrupted at any time and resumed later on. Following the implementation phase, the workflows for commissioning new mobile robots were tested in practice by senior service technicians and the existing Excel lists were replaced step by step.

One year after the launch, Fabmatics manages the commissioning of the HERO® Fab product group to 100% using the workflow checklists in the **EquipmentCloud®** and can guarantee end-to-end tracking and historical reporting using the software.

HIGHER COMMISSIONING EFFICIENCY DURING FACTORY ACCEPTANCE TEST

Since the launch of **EquipmentCloud®** at Fabmatics, two major successes have been achieved: Commissioning costs have been reduced by 50% and processing speed has been increased by 30%. This has been achieved primarily due to the documentation of commissioning and the development of a comprehensive plant history, which makes it easier to process service cases.

The development of functioning use cases and processes resulted in a high level of acceptance and commitment from colleagues in different departments. The complete transparency of processes and the efficiency gained through automation create trust among customers and motivate them to drive digitization forward.



ABOUT FABMATICS GMBH



Fabmatics is an experienced specialist in automating material flows and handling processes in the semiconductor industry and other high-tech production environments.

Founded in 1991, the company has been successfully implementing customer-specific automation projects for customers in the semiconductor industry for 30 years. The range of services includes a modular product range of hardware and software for automating handling, transport and warehouse processes, as well as solutions for product identification and localization. Systems such as mobile robots, robot cells, clean room storage racks, RFID components - and much more - boost efficiency, speed and reliability in factory production processes.

Companies such as BOSCH, Infineon, Globalfoundries, Siltronic and Taiwanese Foundries trust Fabmatics HERO and SCOUT mobile handling systems.

For more information, please visit: www.fabmatics.com

ABOUT KONTRON AIS GMBH

We set the benchmark in industrial software. For more than 30 years and with a growing team of 170 employees, we have been providing solutions for equipment manufacturers as well as factories to break new ground in automation and thereby substantially reduce costs. Together with our customers, we develop concepts for smart manufacturing and Industry 4.0, helping to implement intelligent digitization strategies successfully.

As part of the Kontron Division in the S&T Group, we offer integrated concepts for control & IoT hardware as well as project management, service and support through a global network of regional centers.

With our scalable, cloud-based service platform EquipmentCloud®, we enable the plant and mechanical engineering industries to adapt to digital transformation and incorporate new business models and service products into their strategy.

For more information please visit: www.kontron-ais.com