

XNEWS

A magazine from the Axelent Group

No 4 2018

From idea to IRL

» At the push of a
button we turn an
idea into real life

Erik Nyström, Product Developer

SAFETY FIRST

at the Yaskawa robot facility

WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS

How much they cost the company

A COMPLETE SUPPLIER

From machine guarding to cable trays





Safety First at the Robot Facility

How does the largest facility for robotic automation solutions in the Nordics actually work with safety? Dan Gunnarsson and Cecilia Benze from Yaskawa Nordic AB talk about the company's partnership with Axelent.

Yaskawa Nordic AB was founded in the early 1970s in the Swedish municipality of Torsås under the name of Torsteknik. The company is now part of the Japanese Yaskawa Electric Corporation, one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial robots, power and servo motors and control systems, with over 400,000 Motoman robots installed worldwide.

The Swedish part of the company employs around 160 people at their facilities in Torsås, Kalmar and Jönköping. All three facilities train robot operators in robot programming and robot handling while all manufacturing takes place at Torsås, where they make control systems to all the robots on the European market and complete robotic systems mainly for the Swedish market. They also manufacture peripheral equipment to robotic systems, such as gripping tools, welding equipment, gantries and pick lanes, which broadens a robot's operating range.

"We offer products that give our customers competitive advantages by increasing productivity and creating a better work environment," explains Cecilia Benze, Marketing Manager at Yaskawa Nordic AB.

Dan Gunnarsson, engineer at Yaskawa Nordic AB, adds: "As well as creating a safer and more efficient work environment for their customers, the company also attaches great importance to improving their own workplace conditions. Keeping safety in focus and staying at the forefront of the latest developments is a matter of course for Yaskawa Nordic.

Our design and construction department keep an eagle eye on all the latest safety requirements." Yaskawa Nordics's partnership with Axelent stretches back fifteen to twenty years. They chose Axelent for their prime quality products and short lead times.

>> *Keeping safety in focus and staying at the forefront of the latest developments is a matter of course for us."*

Dan Gunnarsson, engineer at Yaskawa Nordic AB



"The partnership got off to a flying start. We always get an immediate response to any queries or problems we may have, and they give us a quote in next to no time, which we greatly appreciate."

Axelent currently supplies the robot facility with mesh partitions, cable routing systems and door locks.

Our facilities have always maintained a high level of safety and security, and we always conduct a risk assessment before starting a new special project. Axelent plays a vital role in all our safety work. Not least when our designers are developing new flexible safety and security solutions for our facilities.



Sven's tips!

Another new feature to our popular X-It lock

We continue to add new features to our X-It cylinder lock. There is now a panic opener for sliding doors. If an area that is normally locked from the outside needs to be evacuated, it is now possible to open and slide the doors in one motion. The opening mechanism is well hidden to prevent unauthorised entry from the outside. More exciting features to X-It are in the pipeline.

Keep your eyes and ears open!

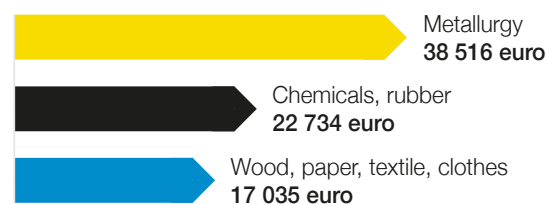


Axel on the Shop Floor – the latest video



Axel, our safety expert, is on his travels again, this time in the automated manufacturing industry. Using the latest and smartest protective equipment, this action movie takes you on an instructive journey through the many risks within the industry. Watch it on YouTube now!

Average cost of an accident that caused lost time *



*Examples from France

476
BILLIONS
EURO

Annual cost of work-related accidents and injuries within the EU

2680
BILLIONS
DOLLAR

Annual cost of work-related accidents and injuries worldwide

Workplace accidents – how much they cost the company

The lack of proper protective equipment within automated manufacturing can be costly. Everything from a fine for breaching occupational health and safety regulations to costly stoppages – not to mention the cost to those affected.

The serious consequences of workplace accidents for those affected and their families, colleagues and managers have been covered by us at Axelent in previous articles. But a workplace accident could also have catastrophic financial consequences for a company. According to figures from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, the annual cost of workplace accidents in the EU alone totals EUR 476 billion. As well as the emotional and financial aspects of caring for the injured person, there are a number of indirect costs, such as equipment replacement, production stoppages, fines/damages, the recruitment and training of a new employee and reduced productivity from other employees, to name but a few.

Prevention using proper protective equipment is significantly cheaper. Axelent is here to help you with this wherever you are located in the world.

► Indirect costs of a workplace accident:

- Damaged machine or tools
- Shutdown of workplace during investigation
- Fines/damages
- Recruitment and training of a new employee
- Administrative costs relating to the accident
- Reduced productivity due to less motivation among other employees
- Negative press
- Legal costs

Sources:
The American Society of Safety Engineers
Carsat, France
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

The forklift – our most dangerous tool

The forklift is as indispensable within industry as it is life-threatening if not operated correctly. In the USA alone, forklift accidents lead to 85 deaths a year and account for one in six of all fatal workplace accidents.

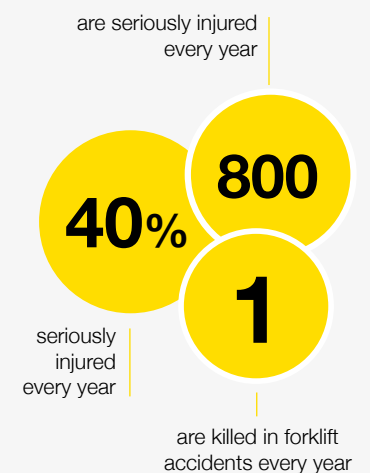
In both the UK and Sweden, figures show that forklifts account for more workplace accidents than any other machine. In the UK alone, forklift accidents result in 300 hospital visits a year, which, according to the British Safety Council, is five British workers a day. The most vulnerable are workplace pedestrians, who make up 57 per cent of those injured in the UK and 80 per cent of those injured in the USA. In their study, the British Safety Council claim that many of the accidents could have been avoided if companies had been more stringent in cordoning off walking and driving areas.

In the USA, where 85 people are killed every year and 34,900 are seriously injured in forklift accidents,

the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) say that accidents would fall by 70 per cent if workplaces provided more training programmes and adopted more stringent safety measures. In addition to the suffering that would be avoided, the overall cost of accidents would drop by USD 94.5 million a year.

Australia is one country that has steadily reduced the number of forklift accidents. In 2008, the number of seriously injured people was registered at 1,100. Seven years later it had dropped to 800. The country has invested heavily in the safety training of forklift drivers and other employees at workplaces where forklifts are used.

Source: Occupational Safety & Health Administration



AXELENT GOES GLOBAL



Mats Hilding holds a speech for visitors and business partners



Leading fair on home soil for Axelent

8–11 October 2018 | Germany

Motek international trade fair was held in Stuttgart and we naturally took part. Motek is the world's leading event in the fields of production and assembly automation, feed technology and material flow, streamlining through handling technology, and industrial handling.

The event coincided with Axelent GmbH's 25th anniversary in Stuttgart. Mats Hilding, MD of Axelent AB, was present and held a speech for the 50 guests and partner.



Robots, People and Machines in Spain

CosmoCaixa Barcelona is a science museum belonging to the Obra Social of "la Caixa" located in Barcelona. Since last year, Axelent Spain S.A.U. has exhibited together with Elektra Catalunya at a robotics trade fair in CosmoCaixa.

The exhibition, Robots, Humans and Machines, which is co-produced by DASA Working World Exhibition in Dortmund, Granada Science Park and La Caixa Banking Foundation, tells the story of the oldest civilisations that produced the first machines for the development of robots and artificial intelligence.

As shown in the illustrations, Axelent supplies safety to the exhibition with X-Guard Transparent Polycarbonate Panels. The panels make it possible to watch the robots at work a car assembly line.

Axelent's X-Guard panels protect a programmed robot while it assembles all the parts needed for car manufacturing.



Fachpack

24–26 September 2018 | Germany

The first time we have exhibited at Fachpack in Nuremberg. A packaging, processing and technology fair. It's important to use exhibitions for more brand awareness and FachPack was very successful for that target!



Daegu Automatic Machinery

14–17 November 2018 | Korea

DAMEX 2018 is the largest automated machine show in Daegu. The DAMEX exhibition has been running for 18 years and provides business opportunities to the exhibitors as well as the local manufacturing industry. The exhibition presents trending products, such as FA System components, tools, metal processing machines, machine tools, precision measuring instruments, inspection apparatuses, logistics systems, packaging machines and shaping and welding. The exhibition also invites 20 large and medium sized companies to consultation meetings to discuss purchases.

S.V. Tech, Axelent's agent in Korea exhibited our X-Guard machine guard.



Axelent Spain

In September, colleagues from Axelent Spain visited the head office in Hillerstorp, Sweden. The trip was a reward for an excellent 2017 with figures showing over 30 per cent growth. The visit began with two days in the office and production facility in Hillerstorp where the visitors were informed of new projects and products.

The team also spent a couple of days in the beautiful city of Gothenburg, which included guided tours, enjoying the Swedish cuisine and a visit to the beautiful island of Brännö in the archipelago.

We hope the growth continues throughout 2018.



Axelent welcomes new Business Development Manager to the team

According to Axelent Sales Director, Drew Hoxey, the addition of a new Business Development Manager is to ensure that there is a strong focus on customer development and growth in the New South Wales and Queensland markets.

"I am so pleased to welcome Rob Quinn to the Axelent team as our new BDM as we will be able to expand our reach into industrial, warehouses, engineering and airport industries, plus maintain the distributors and resellers community that we have developed in the region," Mr Hoxey said.

Rob began at Axelent Australia on 3 December.



A thank you to Stefan Berg

Stefan Berg has left his post as MD of Axelent Ltd and returns to Sweden to meet new challenges. "It has been an absolute pleasure working with my Axelent UK colleagues, who have made me feel welcome from the day I walked through the door. It has been the experience of a lifetime in a fantastic country, and I wish Axelent all the best for the future", Stefan says.

Axelent would like to thank Stefan for his hard work and dedication and wish him all the best for the future. Russell Harris, European Sales Manager for the X-Tra range, will step up to the role of MD in collaboration with a new management team made up of senior colleagues.



PPMA Show 2018

25-27 September 2018 | NEC Birmingham

Axelent Ltd returned to the PPMA at the NEC in Birmingham. This is the seventh year that Axelent Ltd have exhibited there, but the first time that Axel and Safe-X-products have been on show. The exhibition was a great success with lots of visitors flocking to our stand to try to catch an Axel toy. Axelent Ltd would like to thank everybody who visited us during the show.

Robotics and Automation 2018

10-11 October 2018 | Arena MK, Milton Keynes

This was just the second year of the Robotics and Automation Exhibition and the visitor total had doubled! Axelent Ltd were back to discuss protection and safety requirements with the visitors.

This more specialised exhibition has proven to be an excellent platform for discussing requirements face-to-face with decision-makers. Robotics and Automation will be moving to a larger venue in 2019 and Axelent Ltd have of course already booked their place.





Photo: Joakim Lenell

Axelent met the high demands

For some time now, Evomatic has been working on a large corrugated paper project for a leading player on the market. They built a robot line, added technology and X-Guard mesh partitions and the plant is now ready for a test run in Karlshamn.

Axelent has supplied Evomatic with machine guards for a number of years. Together the companies have built a high-tech robot plant that not only contains technology and mesh partitions, but also a total of 16 Yaskawa robots.

The plant has been assembled at the Evomatic facility in Karlshamn ready for testing and approval before being disassembled and transported to the customer. X-News met Pär Johnsson, the project manager at Evomatic.

About the choice of supplier

"It was important for us to choose a supplier who could take responsibility for the whole solution, which, in this case, included a special type of gate.

The choice fell on Axelent because they are turnkey suppliers of machine safety. From mesh partitions to cable routing systems."

From quote to delivery

"Because the cells have complex solutions for in and out transport of material, we needed Axelent to be a part of the entire process of finding a satisfactory solution."

How large was the project?

"In this particular case, two large automated lines to which we installed the X-Guard system. All in all, Axelent supplied around 200 partitions, 120 posts, 20 doors with locks and 100 cable trays."



» A complete supplier of machine safety. From network walls to cable support.

Pär Johnsson, Project leader, Evomatic AB

