



VW-tool making works with BRANKAMP-technology

“There are no comparable competitors”

The Service Factory is, with regard to tool making, the internalized service provider within *the* VW-corporation. 21 staff members coordinate, plan and carry out repairs that keep the work of 1,300 tool makers going – a busy hive, in fact the metronome of Europe’s greatest car manufacturer. The machines at this important focal point in production are being protected by collision-monitoring systems from BRANKAMP.

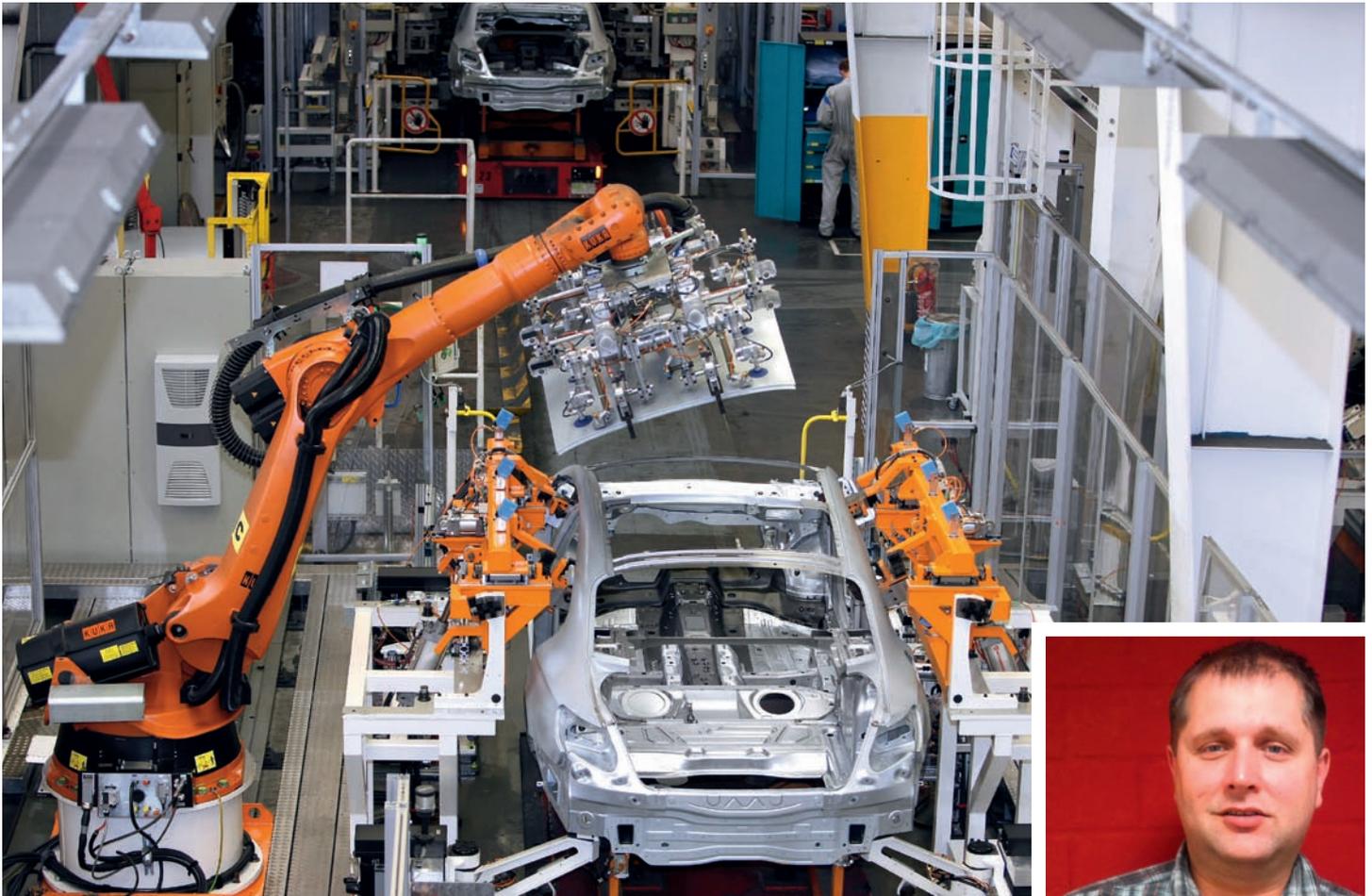
“Amongst our tasks, we take care of repairs and machine-maintenance. Additionally, we deal with customer-service in technical issues”, says Stephan Wapsas, describing his responsibilities. He is a technical administrator at the Service Factory, an internal service provider within the VW-corporation’s tool making branch. 21 staff members keep the machines for manufacturing compression moulding dies for the entire Volkswagen-corporation going here. Tool making is an important core competence at VW. The demands are correspondingly high: Shortest processing times

matter, together with maximum productivity, worldwide flexibility and mobility as well as optimum product quality and precision. Since late 2009, the first tool making-departments of VW are using collision-protection-units from BRANKAMP – and successfully. 16 machines are already equipped with BRANKAMP-systems, just within Wapsas’ area of responsibility. And the tendency indicates: More will be equipped. “We are already planning to use more systems from BRANKAMP. Our experiences are just too positive in order for

us to let this opportunity pass.” On the monitored machines, tools for all kinds of automotive components are being produced –

ranging from small parts to complex car bodies. These products are in turn used within the entire product range of VW.



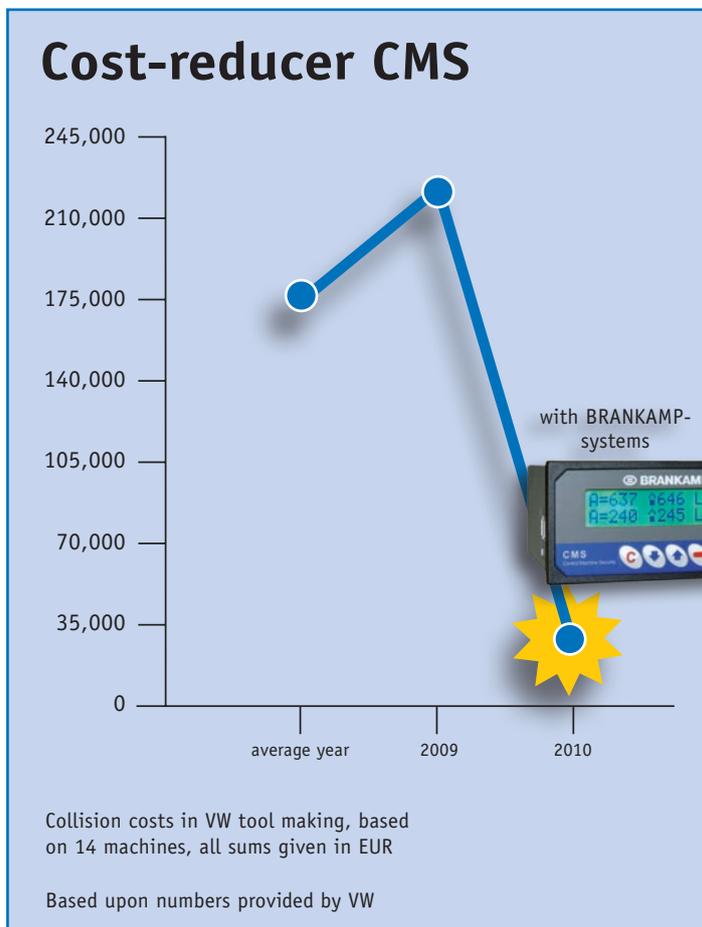


A glance into production, tool making expert Stephan Wapsas: "Collisions have lost their horror for us."

And thus today, there is a bit of BRANKAMP-know how involved with every VW-car that leaves the conveyor belt in any VW-factory. "Before using BRANKAMP-systems in tool making, we had a lot of problems with collisions", remembers Wapsas.

Expensive collateral damages: Collisions happen everywhere

And that, while VW tool making is on top of its game. Compared to other manufacturers, the company is leading the field. In 2009, remarkably few collisions were registered in tool making in Wolfsburg. Many other companies have to cope with much higher collision-rates in daily practice. Yet even those few crashes that occurred at VW were difficult. In the end, they did cost 200,000 Euros after all – far more, than in an average year. Since BRANKAMP-systems are used, collisions-costs sank to about a tenth of this sum. "As a 'cost-airbag' our ProcessMonitoring-systems from BRANKAMP don't



prevent collisions, but the damage caused is considerably lower", says Wapsas. "We decided to use the BRANKAMP CMS 100, simply because there are no comparable competitors active in the market."

Return on Investment: BRANKAMP-systems earn their worth

Already upon acquisition, Stephan Wapsas calculated that the new systems would amortize themselves within the first year. Now it is clear: the expectations are met, and more than adequately so." The numbers are really neat, especially if you consider that we bought durable systems which are absolutely state of the art." Right now, 20 BRANKAMP systems are in use at VW's tool making units in Wolfsburg. 14 more were ordered in October 2010. They will be deployed to the prototyping department, also in Wolfsburg.