Improving Machine Value through Collaborative Engineering

At ViE, we believe that a project's completion is just the beginning of the journey. We don't just build machines; we build long-term competitive advantages for our clients. Today, we are excited to highlight our ongoing collaboration with AFA, a leader in the glove manufacturing space.

The Challenge: Balancing Performance with Value
AFA's existing glove production lines have long been benchmarks for reliability. However, in today's rapidly changing market, AFA sought to optimise their hardware footprint to ensure they remain the most competitive choice for their own end-users.

The goal was clear: Maintain the high-performance standards AFA is known for, while re-engineering the system for maximum cost efficiency and streamlined assembly.

The Solution: A Collaborative "Design for Value" Initiative
In response to AFA's vision for a more competitive, accessible machine, our engineering teams launched a joint "Design for Value" initiative. AFA challenged us to leverage our deep technical knowledge of the existing system to find new efficiencies—without compromising the world-class performance their brand is built on.

- **Customer-Centric Optimisation:** Guided by AFA's market insights, we integrated the latest components to reduce system complexity while maintaining high-speed output.
- **Streamlined Manufacturing:** In direct response to the need for a leaner footprint, we redesigned the framework to minimise material redundancy and significantly shorten assembly lead times.
- **Future-Proofing:** We integrated File over EtherCAT (FoE) protocols, allowing for seamless data transfer and firmware updates directly over the network. This eliminates hardware bottlenecks and makes the system significantly easier to maintain and update in the field.

Why This Matters for AFA Customers

This initiative reinforces AFA's position as the most competitive choice in the industry. Through this ongoing collaboration, we ensure their machines remain:

1. **Economically Superior:** Higher ROI through smarter engineering.
2. **Technologically Current:** Built with the latest industry-standard components.

3. **Reliably Robust:** The same "battle-tested" durability AFA is famous for, now in a more efficient package.

A Word from Our Partner



Chester, CEO of AFA Technologies

“At AFA Technologies, we continuously look for solutions that improve machine efficiency, reduce system complexity, and deliver long-term value to our customers.

ViE Technologies has provided us with a new pressure sensor integrated with an IO controller card that clearly stands out from our previous solution. The significantly smaller footprint allows for a more compact control panel design, while achieving meaningful cost savings without compromising performance or reliability.

The inclusion of an EtherCAT communication port has been a major advantage. It has improved installation efficiency and provided better diagnostics and troubleshooting

capabilities during commissioning and operation. This has helped our engineering and service teams work more effectively and reduce overall system downtime.

We appreciate ViE Technologies' strong technical support and practical engineering approach in delivering a solution that aligns well with our automation requirements. We see this as a successful collaboration and look forward to further opportunities to work together on future machine developments."