

User report

World novelty with impressive test results

Newly developed approach area scanner of the door specialist EFAFLEX was used for the first time in the material lock of Veldener Präzisionstechnik

The new construction of the grinding shop in connection with the extension of the material lock seemed to be the ideal project in order to test the advantages of the new scanner, says Stefan Schiener. He is the head of the electrical department and is responsible for facility management.

“By expanding our production capacities, the volume of transportation traffic within the lock has increased considerably”, says Schiener. Raw material must be transported from outside into the high-rise warehouse and from there into the hall. Semi-finished products are transported to the hardening shop. Part of the surface is additionally needed as buffer store. Thus, although the extension of the building has brought some relief, procurement, production and disposal logistics must all be handled on the same routes. The small turning radii of forklift trucks and other vehicles, especially in the door areas, were also kept. “When a forklift truck entered the door closing level during turning and when the door was closing in that moment, a collision was quite probable in the past”, Schiener explains the problem. “We need every centimetre of space for logistics.”

Another major problem to be solved by the planners was the enormous cross traffic in front of the new Efaflex hall door. Not every forklift truck entering the lock necessarily needs to drive to the grinding shop. Thus, the door would be opened unnecessarily many times a day. The effort for air-conditioning to 20 degrees centigrade would therefore be considerably higher. Therefore, the vehicles were equipped with radio remote controls in the past, which was just an annoying provisional solution.

The newly developed laser scanner was therefore highly welcome by Schiener. Since April, there have now been two yellow bollards to the right and to the left of the door which is the access to the new production hall of Veldener Präzisionstechnik. The pillars house the new laser scanner EFA-SCAN®. “We can kill three birds with one stone by using this modern Efaflex technology”, says Schiener. “The laser scanner exactly knows which vehicle approaches the door and which vehicle only crosses the area in front of the door. It only opens if a forklift truck really needs to enter the hall.

Another important advantage which the planners of Veldener made use of is that the width of the detection area is freely selectable. The laser scanner only tells the new hall door to open if the approaching object is wider than one meter. Thus, the door lets only enter vehicles, forklift trucks and lift trucks but not persons who are to use the pedestrian door next to the door.

Another laser scanner is active on the inside of the door. “Also here, in front of the door, we have constantly cross-traffic for transporting the products between the machines and a conveyor belt on the other side of the hall. The door does not have to open for this”, explains Stefan Schiener. Occasional collisions of forklift trucks and the door now belong to the past.

EFA-SCAN® is the first laser scanner worldwide which can be used at doors. The laser scanner does not only detect movement but additionally takes distance, direction and speed of the moving object into account. Within the static safety field directly in front of the door, the EFA-SCAN® reacts like a safety system: it safeguards the entire surface which is as wide as the door and prevents the closing of the door as soon as it detects a moving or stagnant object. The depth of the safety area is freely selectable. Thus, EFA-SCAN® protects the door and prevents accidents. “Veldener Präzisionstechnik stands for permanent innovation in the fields of production technology, automation, quality and logistics.

This enables the manufacture of high-precision products at best conditions and confers a competitive edge on our customers”, says Hans-Peter Späth, sales manager of Veldener Präzisionstechnik.

Veldener Präzisionstechnik, which was founded in 1882 under the name Kulzer Landmaschinen, has been manufacturing precision parts for utility vehicles since 1982. By constant modernisation and by carrying out the entire processing “under one and the same roof”, the company was able in the past years to achieve two-digit sales increases every year.

Certificates, highly qualified workers, standards and the highest level of flexibility in all fields of production and management guarantee that the highest demands placed by the customers are met and even exceeded.

Reliable suppliers are also an important part of the success. The responsible persons of Veldener Präzisionstechnik have fared very well with Efaflex door technology. Some high-speed doors have been in use in the works for 18 years now and have never been defective. This is where the price pays off, says Stefan Schiener. He can only confirm what Efaflex had announced with regard to the operation of the EFA-SCAN® and concludes enthusiastically: “As far as I am personally concerned, the door technology of Efaflex is very important for our works. And the laser scanner is the perfect solution for our needs.”

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