



Robots' Laser Vision Improves Quality

Ford Motor Company is investing \$100 million globally to install robotic plant laser inspection technology to improve quality through reduced wind noise and more refined fit and finish.

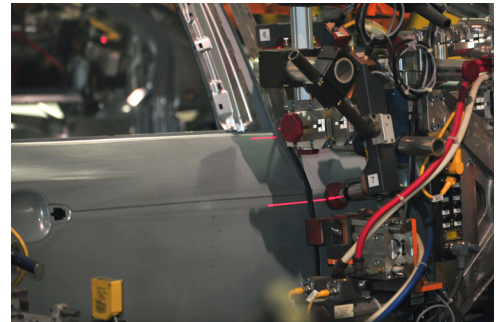


Laser-guided technology

The new robotic technology builds on laser-guided, end-of-line robotic technology pioneered by Ford's European team to measure points on each vehicle as it moves down the line to verify build quality.

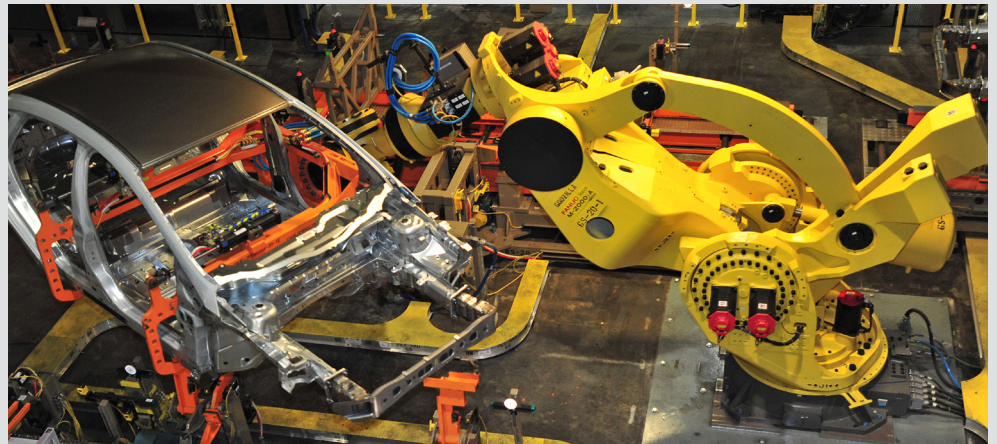
Programmed for quality

The robots are programmed to recognize any minute deviations from the correct specification. The robots can shut down the assembly line if cameras detect a door does not fit Ford's exacting quality measurements. Dimensions of vehicle body interfaces are verified to one-tenth of a millimeter.



Building better vehicles

The robot technology helps ensure that car door panels fit more accurately to reduce wind noise, a key quality factor for consumers. In particular, the laser vision technology helps confirm the door quality margins once installed. This solution complements other Ford plant technologies that use machines to detect air leakage from the cabin as well as NVH (noise, vibration, harshness) chambers. With all these technologies combined, Ford has another powerful tool to help ensure quality.



2012 Ford Focus and Explorer

The new robotic technology is being used to produce the 2012 Ford Focus at assembly plants in Michigan and Saarlouis, Germany, and to produce the Ford Explorer at Chicago Assembly Plant. The technology will then be rolled out globally.

