

Fixture Monitoring System

Customer:
Harbor II / Mazak CNC

Many installations in UK, EU
& USA

KEY VALUE PROPOSITION

Measuring the pressure of hydraulic lines in automated CNC fixtures allows the machine to shut down if a drop in pressure is detected or the pressure drops below alarm levels. This provides an extra layer of machine safety monitoring.

MARKET ASSESSMENT

Addressed market

- CNC Machine tool manufacturers & operators
- Auto Pallet and Material Handling applications
- Fixture OEMs

Value proposition

- Reduces Product Loss through movement of loose workpiece
- Enhances the Safety of the system
- Protects against operator error, for example starting a cutting cycle without first applying the correct hydraulic pressure

TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

Technical requirements for use case

- Wireless Sensors send data to Local Gateways
- Pressure Sensors range from 0-2 bara to 0-400 barg

Existing technology building blocks

- Modified IWT Sensor design for FMS transmitter
- IoT Gateway re-purposed as a FMS receiver with display, alarm relays and cellular connection for Cloud storage

Internal and external capabilities

- Internal – Wireless Pressure transmitters, receivers and Cloud storage. FMS System knowledge and highly configurable PC based GUI.
- Internal – Communications including Modbus RTU

KEY CHALLENGES

1. Obtaining Battery life required with 1s update rate
2. Space requirement for FMS pressure transmitter

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

1. Global market for wireless FMS systems is estimated at £20M USD in 2019 growing to £23M USD in 2025.

NEXT STEPS

1. Contact OEM Fixture manufacturers to build systems into the0r Fixtures



Key highlights of the project

- Follows on from successful implementation of an FMS for RR Aerospace.
- New custom wireless pressure transmitter designed and deployed in multiple locations