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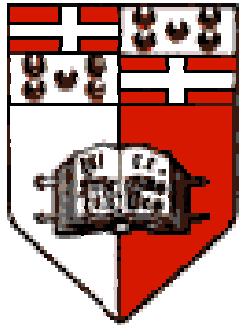
A rationalisation of industrial automation requirements and service provision in Malta, with a focus on the development of new modular reconfigurable industrial automation systems - AUTOMATE



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AUTOMATE Partners



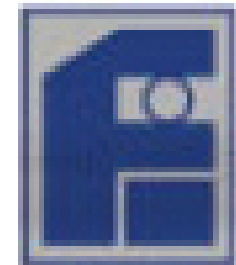
Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering



Department of Management



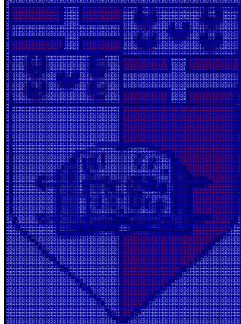
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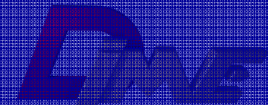
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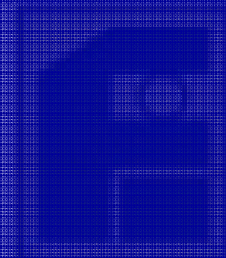
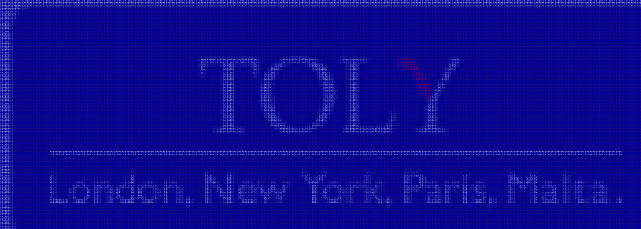
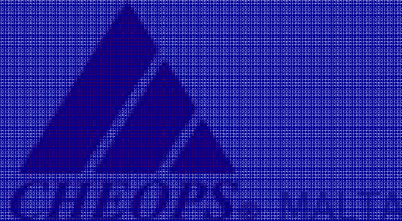
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A two-year project

Started in December 2007



The two key questions

Does the Maltese manufacturing industry use automation to its full potential, especially in the case of the smaller companies?

Where it is being used, is manufacturing automation being applied in the best way?

AUTOMATE Objectives

- Carry out a critical investigation of the current implementation of industrial automation in the local context, and identify problems that exist, particularly in the case of high added-value product manufacture.
- Provide solutions to identified problems, with a focus on new research along the concept of reconfigurable automation.

AUTOMATE Objectives

- Develop comprehensive guidelines on the implementation of effective production automation systems within the Maltese environment.
- Set up and test a pilot version of a versatile automation test bed, to help in the development and evaluation of the guidelines, and targeted towards use by local industry for trying out new automation strategies.

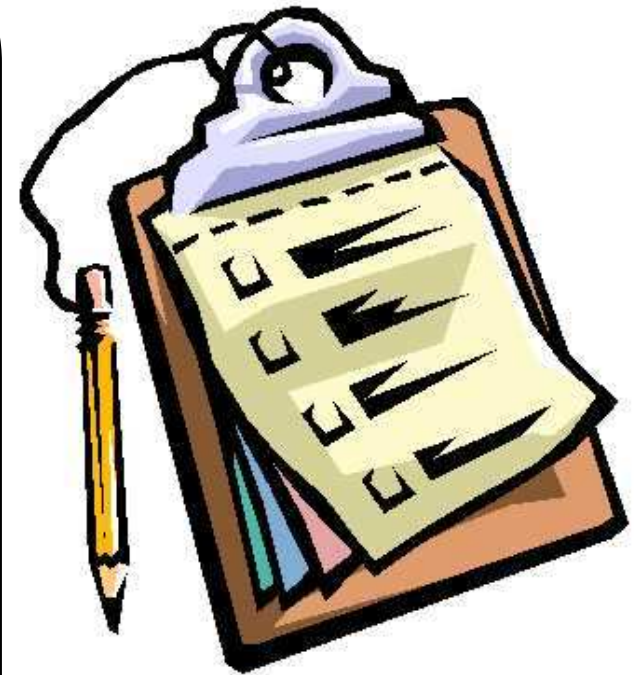
AUTOMATE Actions



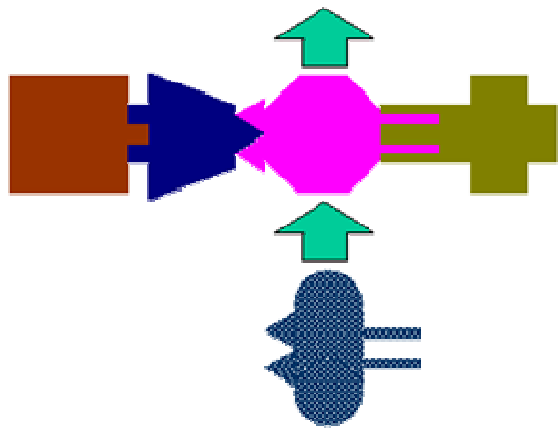
1. Carry out a detailed literature review on previous experiences in the setting up of automation test beds, and on the theory and implementation of modular, reconfigurable automation systems in industry

AUTOMATE Actions

2. Collect and analyze comprehensive data on the present use and limitations of automation in the Maltese manufacturing industry



AUTOMATE Actions



3. Investigate and develop the potential of using modular reconfigurable automation systems (MRAS) in the Maltese environment, with the possibility of developing new derivatives / methodologies that are superior in our context.

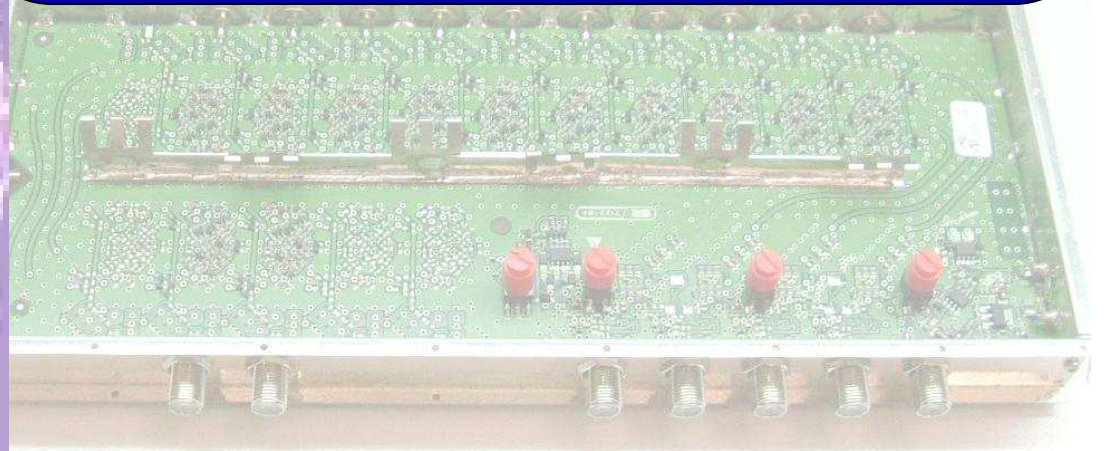
AUTOMATE Actions

4. Develop a pilot version of an industrial automation test bed for use by the Maltese industry.



AUTOMATE Actions

5. Employ the test bed to three test cases from the local industry.



AUTOMATE Actions

6. Develop comprehensive guidelines for the implementation of automation in Malta.

7. Develop a detailed business plan to exploit the results of this research.

The emphasis during the entire project will be on:



Consider ourselves to be a think-tank and a dedicated project implementation team, with a mission to substantially improve the competitiveness of Maltese industry