

Product Development for Industry 4.0

Robotics - from Business Case to Product and Innovation Opportunities!

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27.10.2022

Tomas Smetana



Personal data

- Born in Czech Republic
- 48 years, married, 2 children
- Hobbies: technology, history, arts, languages, traveling, endurance sport

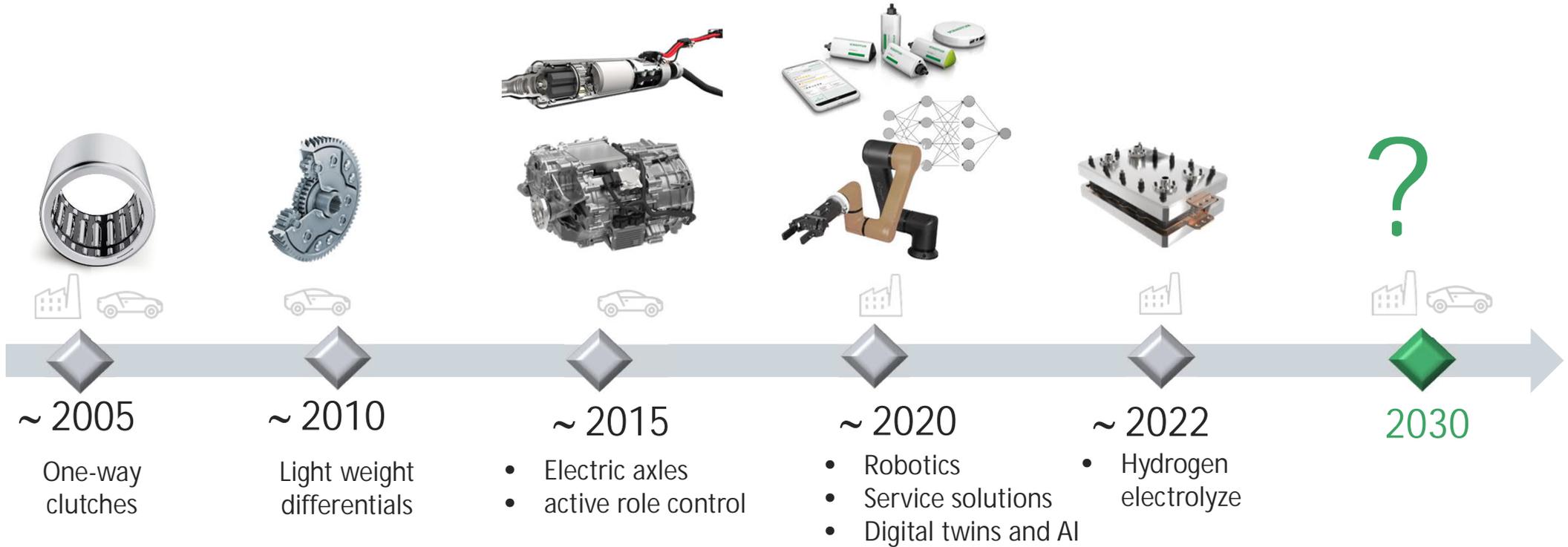
Academic career

- 1992-1998 TU Prague, mechanical engineering and advanced engineering
- 1998-2001 PhD in mechanical engineering at the TU Chemnitz in Germany
- June 2022 Professor at Shanghai University

Professional career

- Since 2001 Schaeffler AG, Herzogenaurach
- 2001-2005 Simulation engineer in the Central R&D
- 2005-2009 Advanced development, BD transmission applications
- 2009-2013 Product group eAxles, Systems Division eMobility
- 2013-2016 Product line Chassis Actuators, BD Chassis
- 2016-2019 CTO Asia Pacific, Yokohama
- 2019-2022 Global CTO Division Industrial, Shanghai
- Since 01.09.2022 Senior Vice President Advanced Innovation, Herzogenaurach

My important product development milestones ...



Schaeffler facts and figures – One of the world's largest family-owned companies



approx.
83,000
employees
worldwide

approx. **200**
locations in
over **50**
countries

9.1%
EBIT margin in
2021¹

75 plants
and **20**
R&D centers

over
1,800
patents
registered
in 2021

sales of approx.
€ 13.9
billion in
2021

Diversified customer base – Serving ten customer sectors



Cars & Light Commercial Vehicles



Truck & Bus



Industrial Automation



Wind



Two-wheelers



Off-road

We pioneer motion



Rail



Aerospace



Raw Materials



Power Transmission

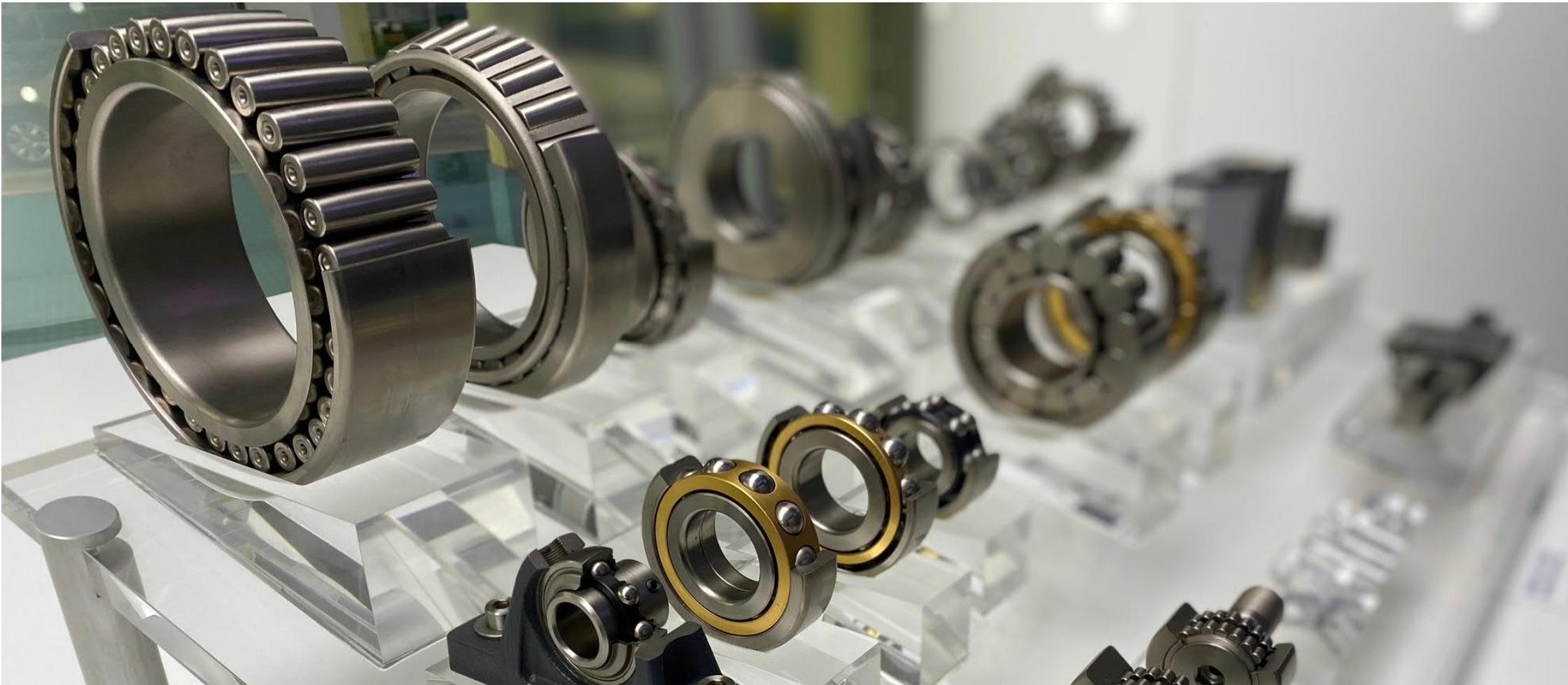
—●— Mobility —●—

—●— Motion —●—

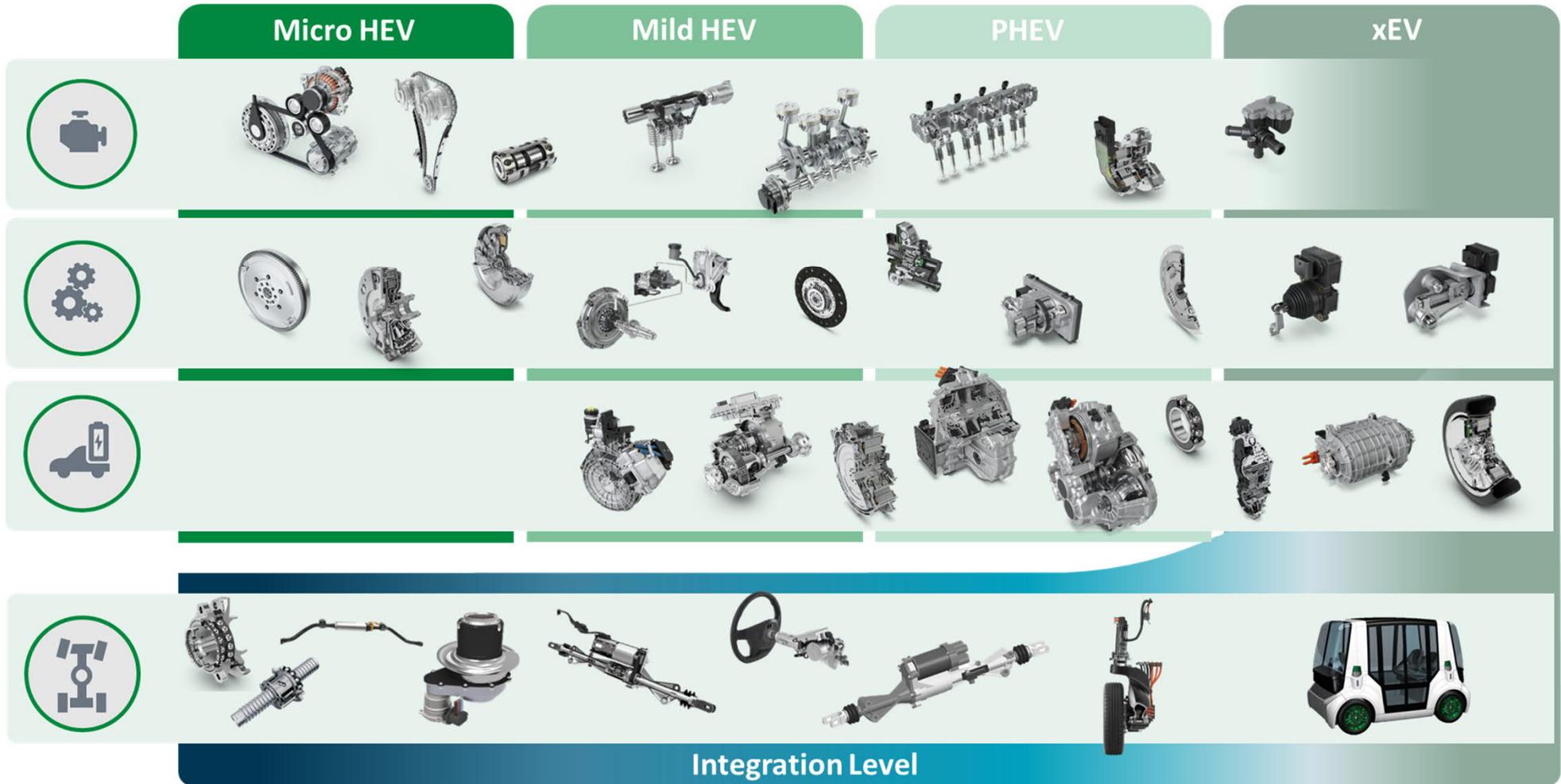
Schaeffler at a Glance

Industrial Bearings

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Automotive Products





Robot - Definition



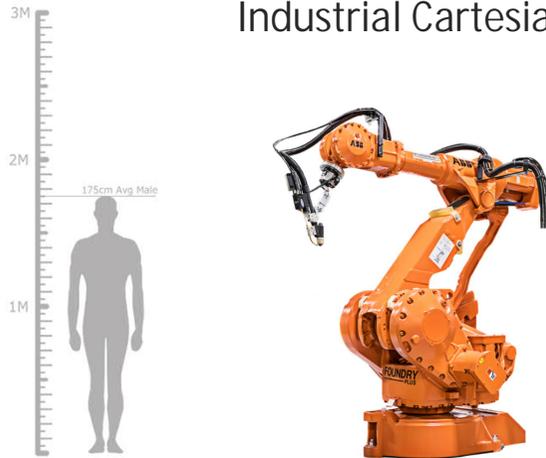
Josef Capek, 1890-1938
Czech writer



Introduction of the word **Robot** in the book R.U.R in 1920
“**Robota**”, means “difficult work” in the Czech language

Robot markets

Industrial Cartesian robots



- "Behind the fence", no interaction with people
- Payload up to 300 kg (1000 kg)
- Repeatable periodic tasks
- Operating only by experts
- High product maturity
- Established market, CAGR ca. +6%

Target: Expand business with components

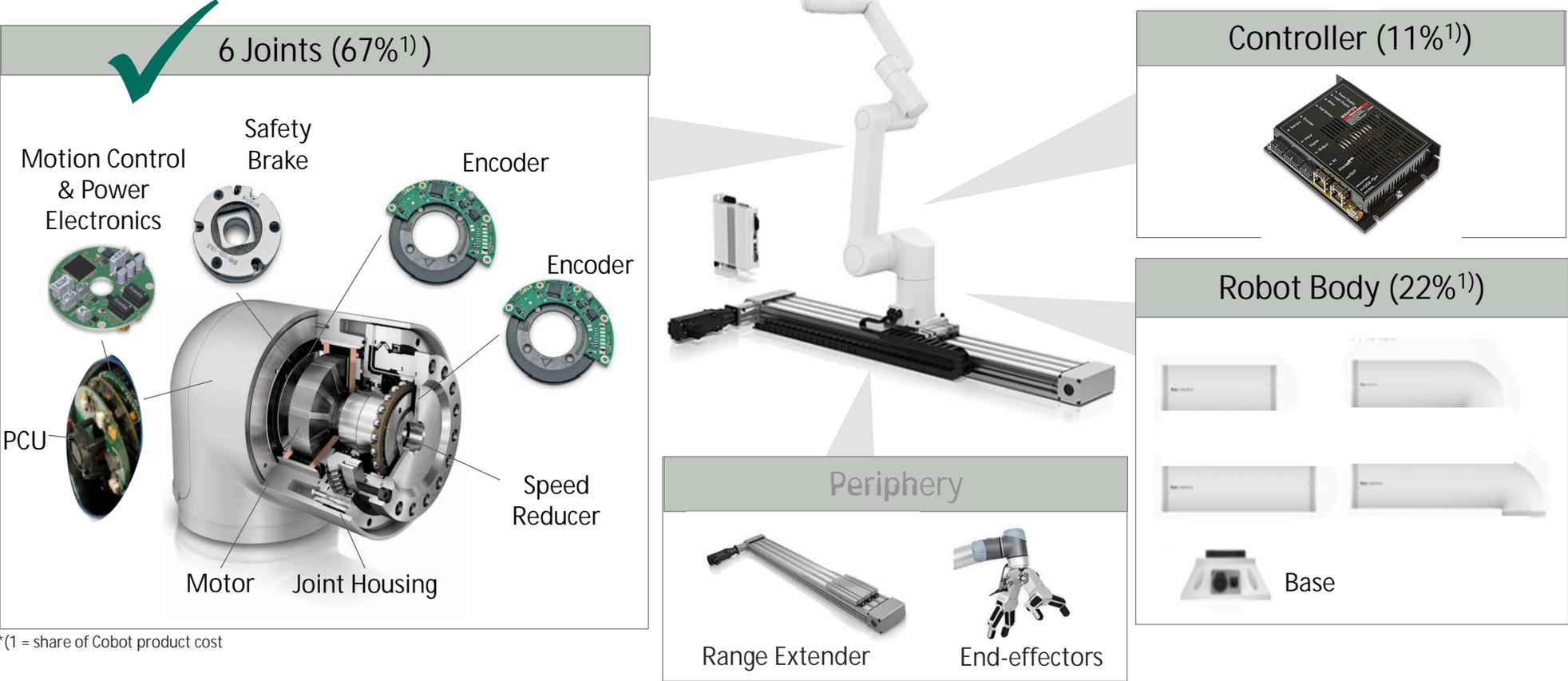
Cobots = Collaborative robots



- "Out-of-fence", collaborating with people
- Payload < 15 kg (20 kg)
- Frequently changing tasks
- Easy to operate by blue collars (AI)
- Lower product maturity
- Rapidly growing market, CAGR > +50%

Target: New businesses with mechatronic solutions

Industrial Robot Arm - Core Components and Value Add



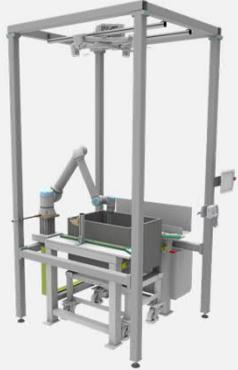
Robot arm joints represents more 60% of industrial robot arm value add

Cobots at Schaeffler Production Plants



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Automatic cell



-  Roller bearings
-  Loading rings via Bin-Picking
-  Plant Schweinfurt

Coexistence



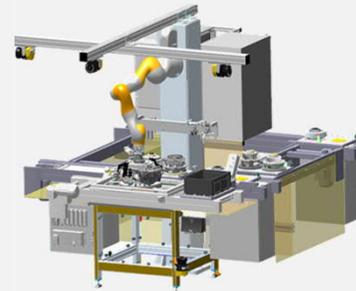
-  TMM components
-  Unloading sensor covers into carrier
-  Plant Svitavy

Cooperation



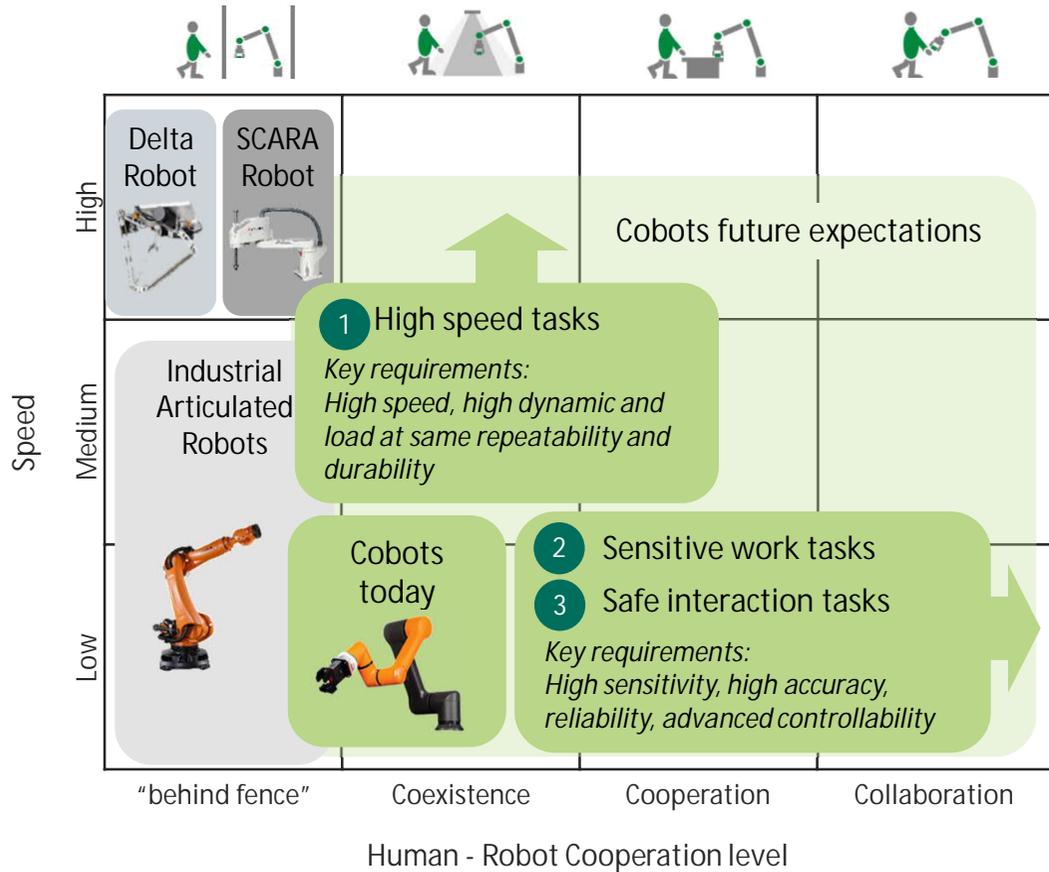
-  ASEH GEH
-  Sample Inspection
Outer diameter
-  Plant Homburg

Collaboration



-  E-axle components
-  Assembly several gear boxes in housings
-  Plant Herzogenaurach

Customer Expectations & Product Portfolio



- 1 High speed tasks
 - High stiffness bearings XZU
 - Precise wave type speed reducers
 - High performance PCB motors



- 2 Sensitive work tasks
- 3 Safe interaction tasks
 - Integrated torque sensor
 - Robot arm joint and new functions



Product portfolio requirements derived from future expectations of end-users in production!

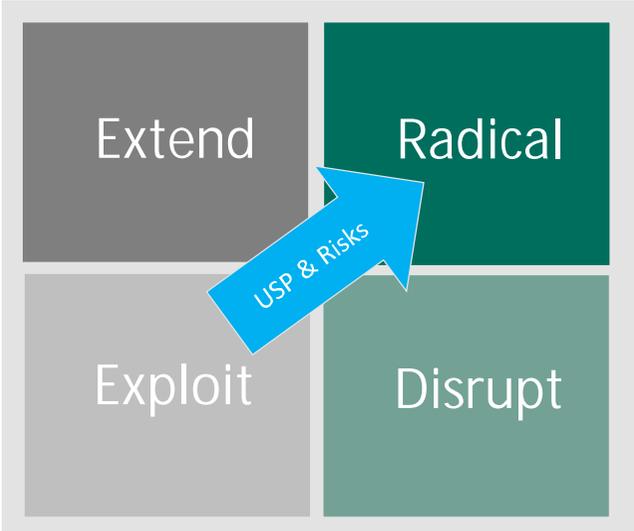
Innovation Levels, Risks and Challenges

- Technology transfer from auto
- Less USPs, provide availability
- High product variance required!



Market

new



- Schaeffler core business
- Value add for speed reducer
- No direct sales to competitors!



existing

existing

new

Technology



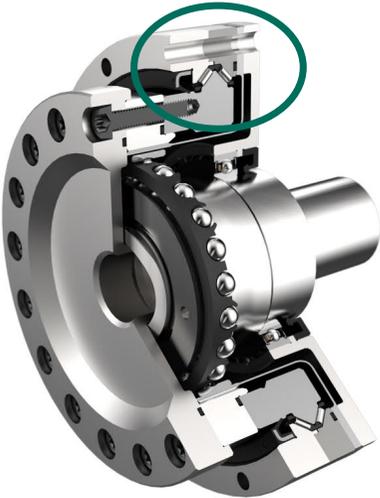
- Tech. enablers: Sensotec and AI
- USP: Fully integrated sensor
- New cobots markets!



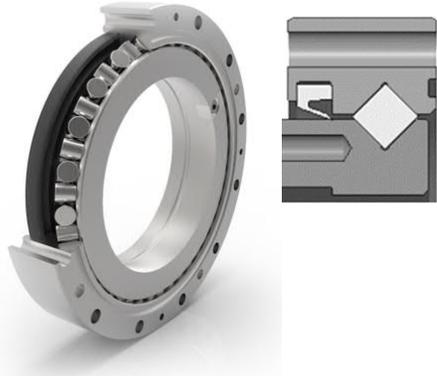
- Tech. enablers: PCB, SMC
- USP: Power density, no cogging
- Price sensitive replacement market!

Increasing innovation level requires transformation of the whole organization, increases USPs but also risks

Main Bearing for Speed Reducers

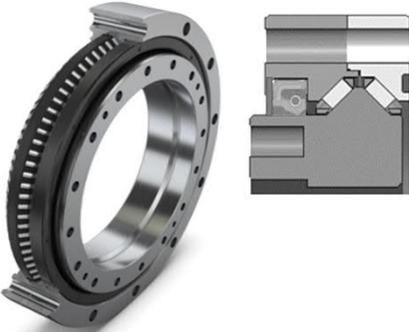


State of art:
Cross Roller Bearings (XRB)

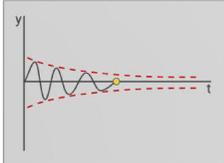
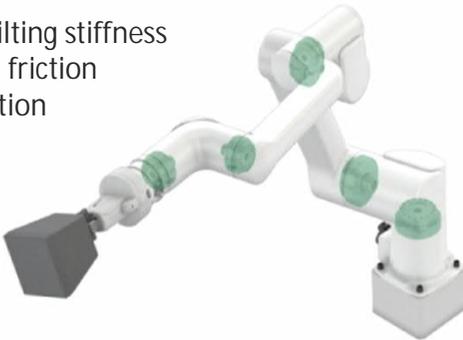


- High cost, difficult to assemble
- High and variable friction

Schaeffler:
Cross Needle Bearings (XZU)



- 30% higher tilting stiffness
- 20% reduced friction
- Constant friction



Innovative cross-needle bearing results into significant system improvements regarding precision and speed!



High safety & sensitivity!

- Torque control in robot arms
- Force feedback in end-effectors
- Vision systems for object recognition
- Self-learning capabilities
- Easy to teach & communicate

Speed reducer with integrated Torque Sensor

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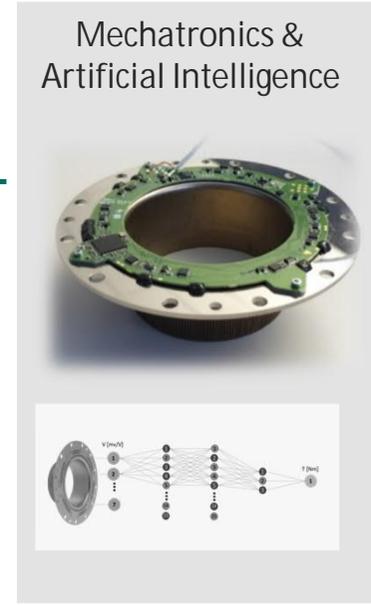
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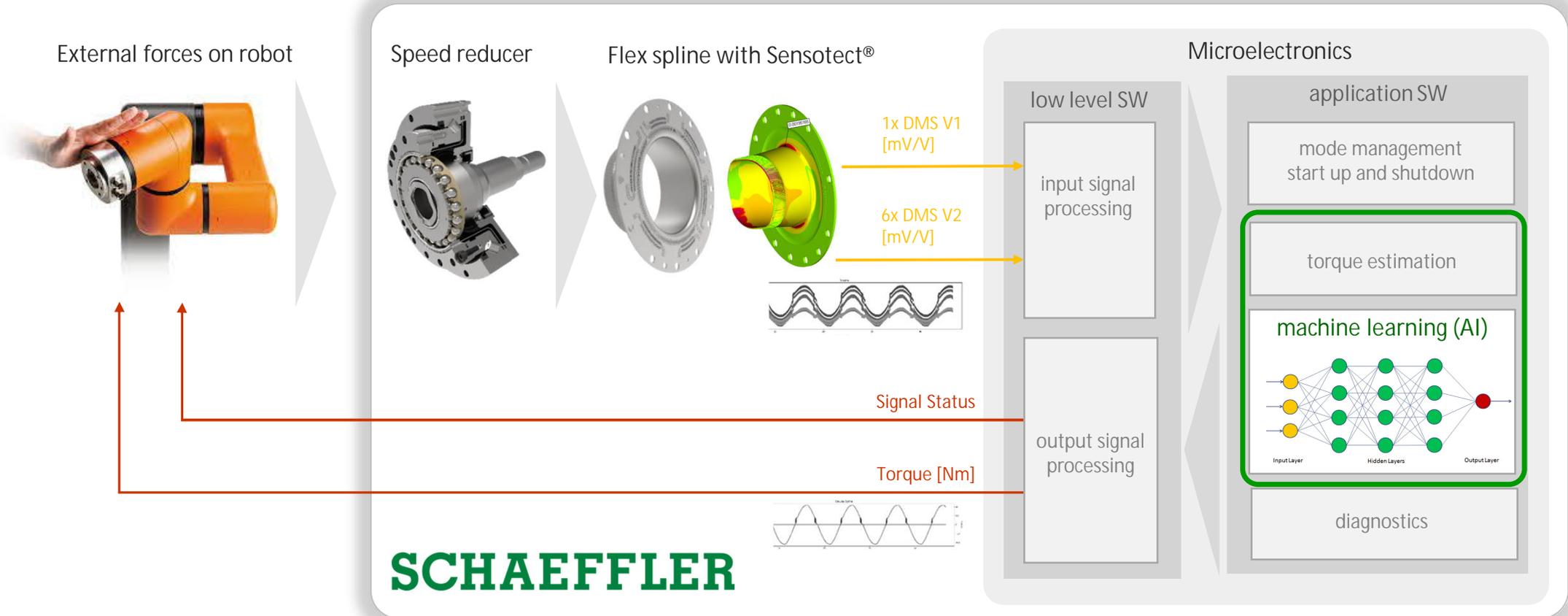


- **USP:** integrated torque sensor
- High sensitivity and safety
- High stiffness and precision
- No additional space and weight

Functional competences: Simulation, Validation, Industrialization

Schaeffler core competences: System know how, materials & surface technology and industrialization capabilities!

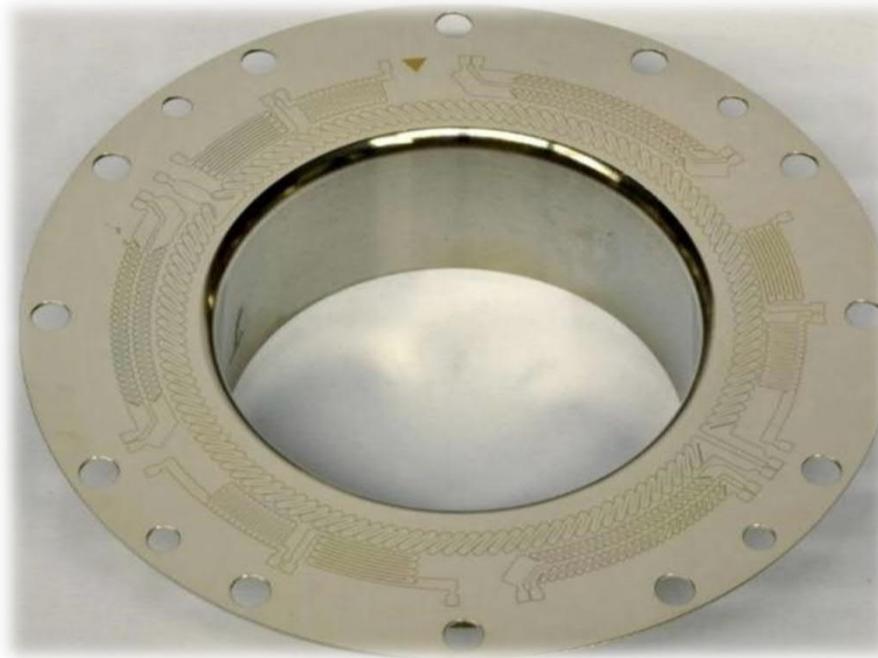
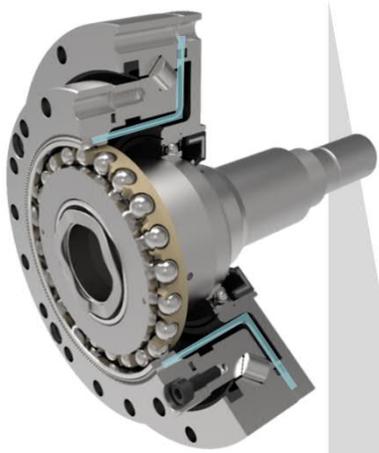
Speed reducer with integrated Torque Sensor



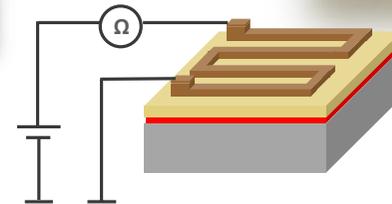
Innovation: fully integrated torque measurement based on Sensotect & embedded AI (machine learning)

Speed reducer with integrated Torque Sensor

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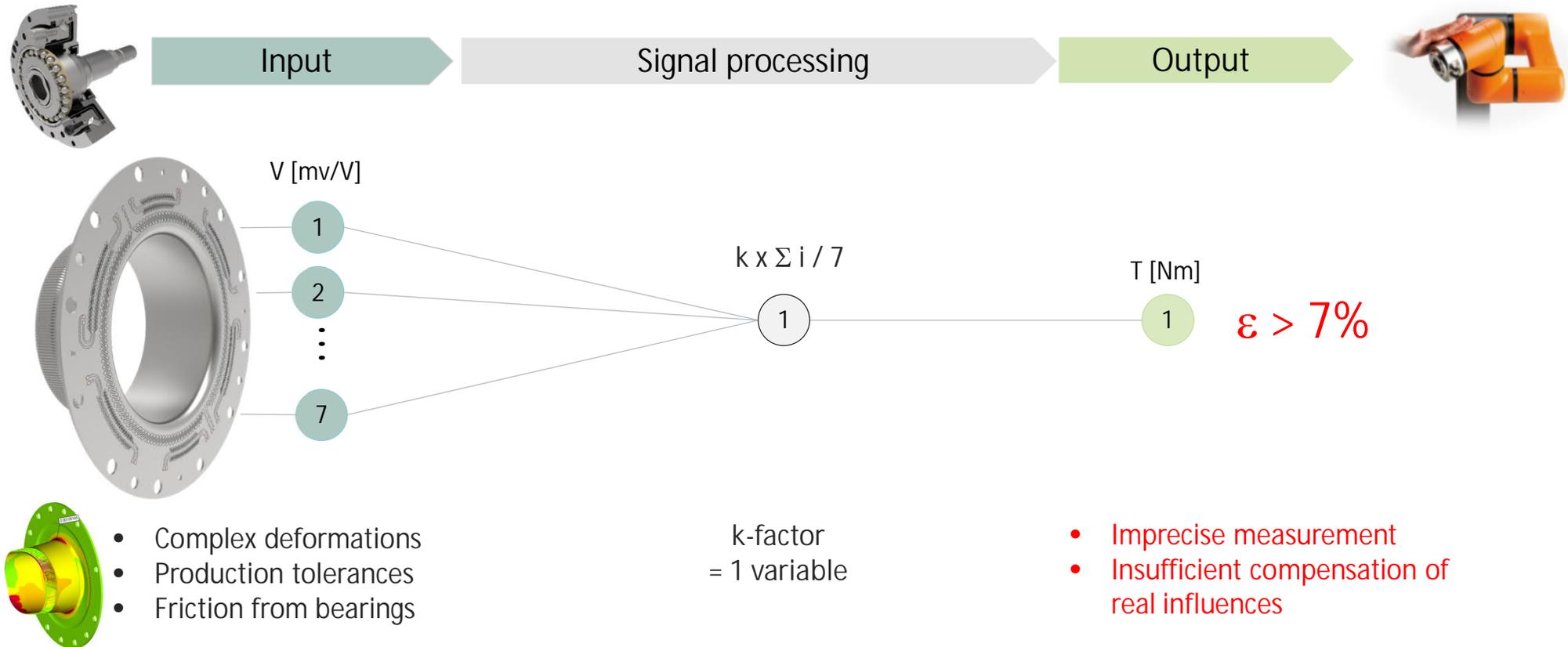


- Two layer nano-coating
- Laser structured strain gage patterns
- direct measurement of deformations
- high precision and durability
- no creep

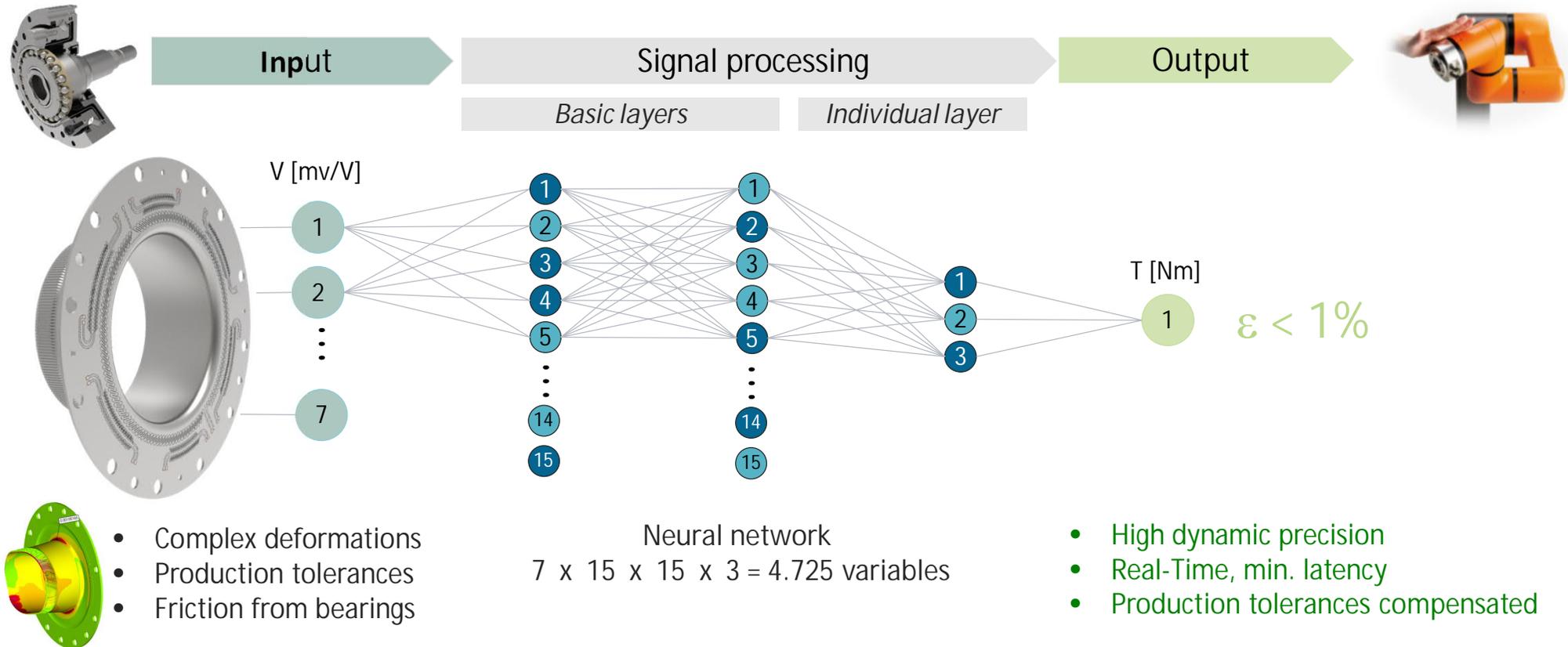


Innovation: Sensotect® coating for measurement of surface deformations inside transmission

State of Art – “Full Bridge”



Conclusion: Standard full bridge can't fulfil requirements of robot applications



Conclusion: AI makes sense especially in combination with multiple sensors based on Sensotect

Outlook: Advanced robots at Schaeffler

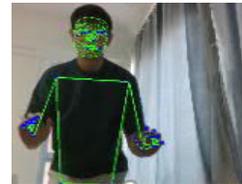
Autonomous movement



- Inspection systems
- Delivery services
- Professional services
- ...



Autonomous handling

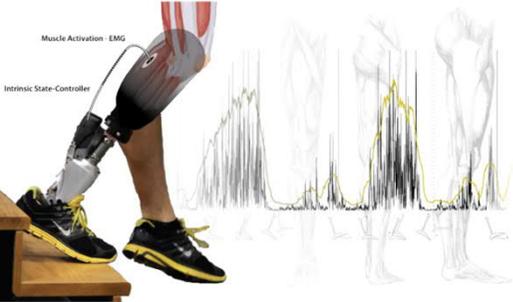


HMI - Gesticulated and verbal communication

Target: fully autonomous delivery and handling systems for production or for professional services!

Future Application of Advanced Robotics ...

Protheses controlled by muscle contractions



Protheses controlled by mind/brain signals



Insects remote controlled by chip



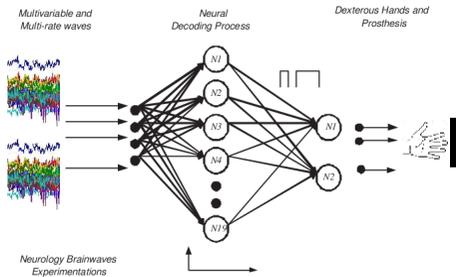
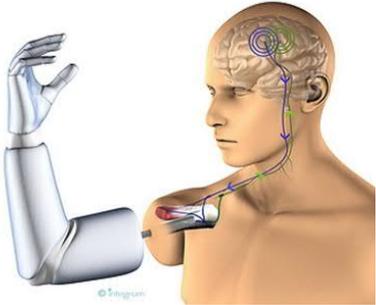
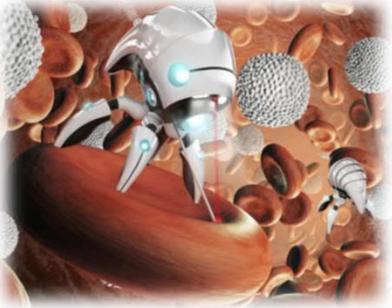
Humanoids



Exoskeletons



Nanorobotics



Schaeffler screen markets for future peaceful robot applications e.g. in healthcare!

Innovation-to-business ...

Strategy



- “Do less in order to achieve more”
Focus on systematic efficient innovation instead of generating random manifold ideas!

Disruptiveness



- “As disruptive as necessary, as close to core as possible”
Anticipate customer needs, understand future markets and own core values deeply before ideation!

Risks



- “Less risk, more fun”
Make risks transparent and predictable as early as possible and mitigate them!

Efficiency



- “Fail fast with minimum costs”
Allow idea diversity, support agility and failure culture, but efficiently and with lessons learned!

