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AGV Reference Platform

Motius GmbH

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AGV Reference Platform

 Manufacturing

 Automation

 Drive & Control

We developed a revolutionary low-cost AGV platform for spinning mills, achieving:

- ✓ **Under \$80,000 total budget** for complete AGV system
- ✓ **80kg payload capacity** for transporting textile manufacturing products (yarns, bobbins, and sliver cans) up to 1200mm height
- ✓ **Modular design** supporting interchangeable platforms and future enhancements
- ✓ **Dust-resistant construction** optimized for fiber-dense textile environments



Project Vision

The vision was to revolutionize material handling within spinning mills through development of a cost-effective, modular, and scalable under-carriage Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV). This AGV serves as a modular robot platform with potential for future enhancements, including robotic arms and specialized tools.

The AGV streamlines transport of materials such as yarn, bobbins, and sliver cans between processing stations, improving operational efficiency and reducing manual labor in textile manufacturing environments.

Technical Approach

System Architecture

Component	Specification	Details
Base Dimensions	600mm × 800mm	Accommodates 600mm diameter sliver cans
Drive System	Differential drive + caster wheels	2x stepper motors for precise control

Navigation	Line following / magnetic tape	IR/camera-based sensors with $\pm 5\text{mm}$ accuracy
Power System	24V/48V LiFePO4 battery	2-6 hours runtime per charge
Control Platform	ARM-based IPC with Linux/ROS	Modular software architecture

Modular Platform Design

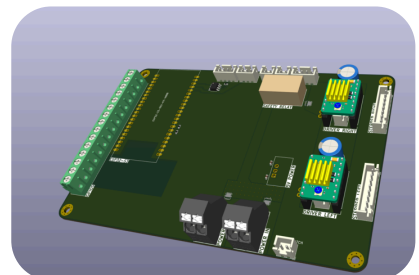
Despite the cost, the AGV features a sophisticated modular system designed for rare but necessary component swaps:

Mechanical Interface

- **Docking plate with quick-lock bolts** for rigid, vibration-resistant connections
- **Guide pins** for precise alignment during module changes
- **Tool-assisted swap** process (10-15 minutes per module)

Electrical Integration

- **Anderson Powerpole 45A connectors** for industrial-grade power connections
- **M12 Industrial CAN Bus connectors** for real-time control communication
- **EEPROM-based automatic module detection** for plug-and-play functionality



Navigation & Safety

- **Line following capabilities** using IR or camera-based sensors
- **Basic obstacle detection** with ultrasonic/infrared sensors
- **Dust-resistant mechanisms** preventing fiber accumulation
- **Low-speed operation** optimized for safety in industrial environments

Implementation Strategy

We applied a hybrid Agile-Systems Engineering approach combining iterative development with structured validation:

Development Phases

Phase	Deliverable	Timeline
Phase 1	Business needs & system requirements	Weeks 1-2
Phase 2	Detailed design completion	Weeks 2-3
Phase 3	Sub-system manufacturing	Weeks 2-6
Phase 4	System integration & testing	Weeks 5-7
Phase 5	Fleet management integration	Weeks 7-9

Key Working Packages

- **Drive System Development:** Motors, gearboxes, wheels with dust protection
- **Lifting System:** Servo-driven mechanism with 80kg capacity
- **Navigation System:** CPU/microcontroller with line-following sensors
- **Power Management:** Battery system with wire harness and indicators
- **Modular Platform:** Standardized interfaces for future expansions



Cost Analysis

Our preliminary Bill of Materials achieved the target budget of ~2000€ of hardware costs per AGV, assuming a fleet of 50 units:

System Category	Components	Cost (€)
Drive System	Motors, drivers, wheels	375
Lifting System	Servo, spindle, mechanism	100
Navigation	CPU, sensors, line module	480
Power & Signals	Battery, BMS, harness	240
Structure	Chassis, body, assembly	780
Modular Platform	Connectors, interfaces	60
Total Hardware		2,185 €

Fleet Management Experience

In parallel to AGV development, we've built fleet management systems for drive system manufacturers:

SEW Eurodrive: Commissioning Tool & Fleet Management

For SEW Eurodrive, a leading competitor in the drive and control market, we developed:

- **Commissioning tool** for rapid AGV deployment - Streamlined configuration and parameter setting for drive systems in intralogistics applications
- **Fleet management software** - Real-time monitoring and coordination of multiple AGVs, optimizing traffic flow and task allocation
- **Performance analytics** - KPI tracking for AGV utilization, battery life, and throughput




This experience with SEW demonstrates our deep understanding of the drive and control market that Bosch Rexroth operates in. We know:

- How drive manufacturers position their products in intralogistics
- The integration challenges between drives and fleet management systems

- What OEMs need to successfully deploy AGVs with specific drive systems
- Competitive landscape and differentiators in the drive and control space

Application at Bosch Rexroth

This AGV reference implementation demonstrates how Bosch  Bosch Rexroth's drive and control technology enables cost-effective automation for intralogistics:

- ✓ **Precision motion control** - Bosch Rexroth's drive systems provide the accurate positioning and smooth motion control critical for automated material handling
- ✓ **Scalable control architecture** - Integration with ctrlX AUTOMATION platform enables fleet management and Industry 4.0 connectivity
- ✓ **Reference implementation** - Demonstrates what's possible with Bosch Rexroth's drive technology to OEMs and system integrators
- ✓ **Rapid prototyping capability** - Motius can quickly develop custom AGV solutions showcasing Bosch Rexroth's products in customer-specific applications

For Bosch Rexroth's customers developing their own AGV solutions, this demonstrates: - How Bosch Rexroth's drives enable precise control in cost-effective platforms - Integration patterns with fleet management systems - Modular approach allowing customization for different industries - European-engineered solutions meeting local standards and support requirements

This positions Bosch Rexroth not just as a component supplier, but as an enabler of complete automation solutions for intralogistics applications.