

### Applications

- Arc Welding

### Products

- Agricultural machinery



## Increased demand requires more automation

**Demand for agricultural machinery from Väderstad is constantly increasing. New production premises of almost 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> were recently taken into operation. At the same time, the manufacturing processes are being streamlined to an ever greater extent.**

> When Rune and Siw Stark founded Väderstad-Verken AB in 1962 it was a small engineering workshop on their farm in Väderstad in an important agricultural region of Central Sweden. The company has now expanded into a group with just over 400 employees and eight established subsidiaries in the UK, France, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

“All manufacturing and assembly of our machines takes place in Väderstad. The subsidiaries take care of sales and spare parts management in each country,” explains Anders Stark, production manager and part-owner of the group.

The product range includes sowing machines, harrows, cultivators and rollers. Between 3,000 and 4,000

machines of various kinds are supplied annually from the factory in Väderstad. “With automation, the company is concentrating on gradually increasing its rate of production,” states project manager Clas Lindberg.

“**During the past year** we have installed a new painting system with two robots from ABB. These have considerably increased our rate of production. We also have a further two systems with robots from ABB. In addition, we are planning to further automate our production processes in the near future to enable us to satisfy the increased demand for our agricultural machines.”

Anders Stark believes that Väderstad’s enormous success is largely due to the machines’ capacity, functions and

# Väderstad

Case study: Metal Fabrication



Anders Stark (left) and Clas Lindberg are pleased with the new painting system. The capacity will need to be further increased in a couple of years.

long service life. Another explanation is the company's positive attitude to technical development and automation. The first system, with two welding robots, was installed at the end of the 1990s.

"It is certainly noticeable that the system is several years old, but it still functions well. It is adjacent to a

"We are already seeing clear improvements in our production rate."

## >FACTS

Väderstad's benefits from automation:

- Increased rate of production.
- Flexibility for increased demand.
- Capacity and lengthy service life for long-term development.

pallet handling system and is used mainly for welding frames for the sowing machines," explains Clas Lindberg.

A few years ago, the company invested in an additional two welding robots and one handling robot from ABB. The system receives its control programs via a PC and can weld up to 16 different components. Clas Lindberg is very satisfied with the arrangement and its results.

"It is an advanced solution with nine different fixtures and two outfeed conveyors that has greatly simplified and streamlined production. Generally speaking, we only have to load the system with the components to be welded. The machine takes care of the rest.

"During the past year we have installed a new painting system with two paint robots from ABB. All components welded and manufactured in the factory are blasted and painted in two boxes. We are still in the process of running in the painting system. But we are already seeing clear improvements in our production rate," says Lindberg.

**Andreas Stark is also very pleased** with the latest installation, but points out that with the company's production rate expected to increase even further, the capacity of the painting system will probably need to be doubled in a few years' time. ☺