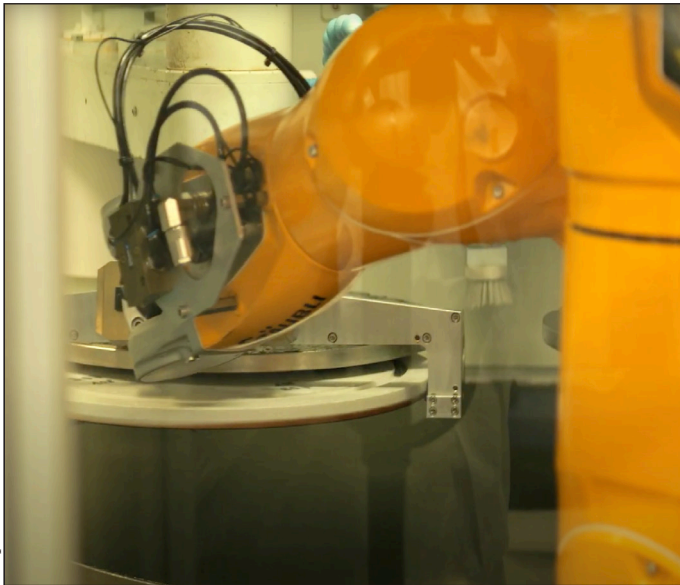


Optim Wafer Services

# Robotising to boost productivity

By automating its silicon wafer polishing activity, this SME specialised in the recycling of silicon wafers has improved quality and productivity, while reducing the painfulness at work.



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## OUR CUSTOMER

**Corporate name**  
Optim Wafer Services

**Workforce**  
54 people (in 2022)

**Turnover**  
8.4 million euros by 2022

**Business activity**  
SME based in Gréasque (Bouches-du-Rhône) specialised in the recycling of silicon wafers and the production of specific products for major European microelectronics contractors.

From the outset, at Optim Wafer Services, the polishing machines were loaded and unloaded manually by the four operators needed to run all the machines 24 hours a day, five days a week. A thankless task that posed a twofold problem: “We had difficulty recruiting and keeping our staff. What’s more, the total weight of 2 tonnes handled by each operator at each shift could lead to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)”, explains Jean-Christophe Millet, the plant’s director. In 2018, as part of a call for projects from the Pôle de compétitivité SCS, the SME was awarded funding for the

robotisation of its polishing activity, in collaboration with Cetim and Alprobotic, a designer of high-precision robotised units. “The production of a demonstrator for two polishing machines and a robot enabled us to validate the technological choices, the actions to be implemented and the budgets to be allocated to robotise the entire polishing workshop”, continues Jean-Christophe Millet.

## A project facilitator

Since 2023, four poly-articulated robots have been feeding the 16 polishing machines, which have been digitised. In this workshop, not only has the risk of MSDs been reduced, but productivity has increased, enabling the SME to meet the growing demand from the European microelectronics market and boost its sales. “By managing the rela-

tions between the different partner companies, finding the best solutions within the deadlines set and above all controlling unforeseen events, Cetim was a facilitator in the running of this project”, concludes Jean-Christophe Millet.

Optim Wafer Services has decided to continue its work, still with Cetim, on the traceability of silicon wafers between the polishing workshop and the final workshop, in order to increase efficiencies and productivity.

## Cetim's asset



Cetim makes its resources and technical skills available to successfully carry out the robotisation of old and heterogeneous machinery. Throughout the project, it coordinates the various participants and provides them with support if necessary.

