The RobuSinter Research Project Partners

GKN Sinter Metals is the RobuSinter project lead and provides its expertise in powder metallurgy, supply compaction presses and sensor systems for experiments, and utilize global workforce for implementation.

INTEC contributes to the RobuSinter project with its longstanding expertise in compaction press software and low-level hydraulic press control.

unibz

UNIBZ (Free University of Bozen)’s faculty of Science and Technology, represented by Professor Angelika Peer, enhances the physical model of the compaction process and develops an adaptive controller for the compaction process.

UNIBZ’s faculty of Computer Science, represented by Professor Francesco Ricci, investigates correlations between process parameters and quality characteristics using Machine Learning techniques.

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POWDER SELECTION
A part of the GKN Powder Metallurgy group, GKN Hoeganaes is a global leader in metal powder production, producing 300,000 tons of powder per year.

COMPACATION
Metal powder is compacted with high pressure, producing the part with the size and shape of the component. This so-called “green part” has enough strength for the next process step.

SINTERING
The component is heated at a temperature designed to bond particles without changing shape, increasing the part’s mechanical strength.

SIZING/FORGING
If needed, components can be sized to enhance specific tolerances and surface characteristics.

FINISHED PRODUCT
GKN Sinter Metals globally provides high-precision net shape products for a variety of markets and applications. We produce over 13,000,000 parts daily.

THE CHALLENGE
- Long training time needed for setters
- Environmental waste
- Variable powder quality
- High manual work load

OUR APPROACH
RobuSinter aims at developing control and machine learning methods to model the compaction process and so to define the achieved part quality.

By combining this information with adaptive machine control, we target to stabilize the production process automatically.