QUICK START

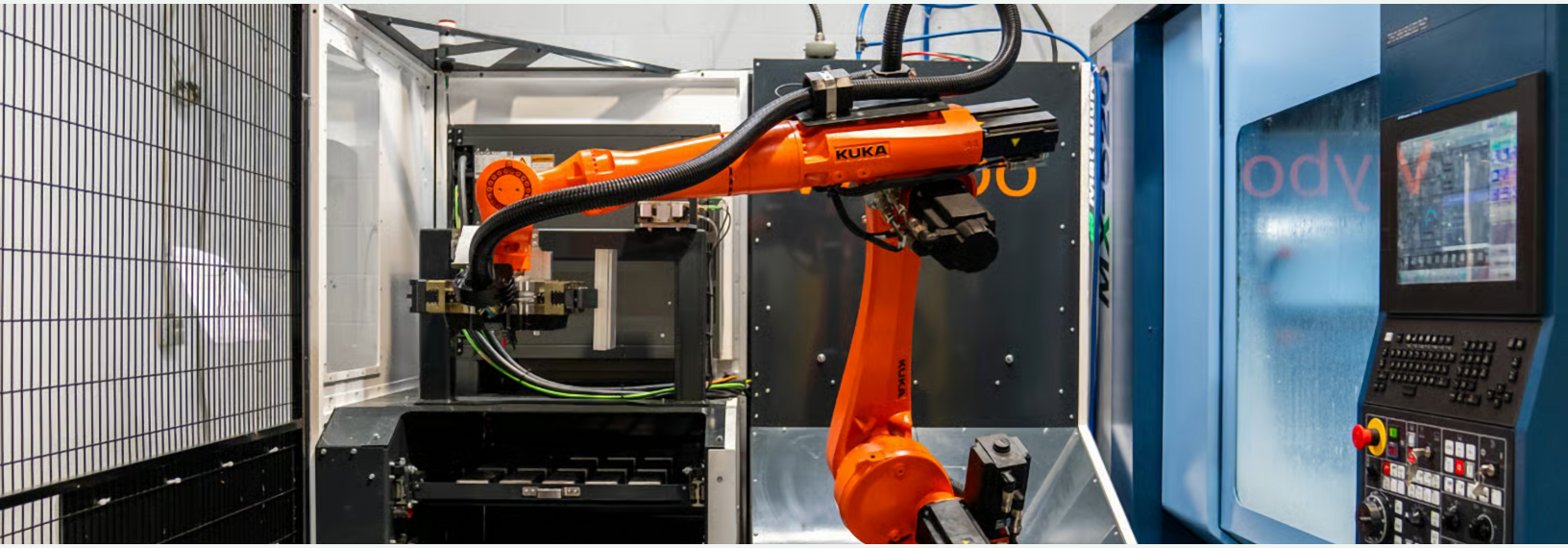
Machine Tending Quick Start Checklist

Start your automation journey by gathering the 9 key pieces of data needed to scope a machine tending cell.

Recover lost spindle time and run lights-out

If you're losing spindle time to manual load/unload cycles, struggling to staff repetitive tending roles, or leaving third shift dark, you're not alone. Machine tending is one of the most automatable jobs on the floor and one of the quickest wins on the line. Here's everything you need to know to scope your first robotic tending cell.

Get Started Today



20–40%
SPINDLE TIME LOST TO MANUAL LOAD/UNLOAD

2–3
SPINDLES TENDED BY ONE ROBOT

24/7
SUPPORT AND 100% MAINTENANCE, INCLUDED

☐ 01 Machine Type & Brand

What machines are you looking to tend? List your equipment type (CNC mill, lathe, EDM, injection mold machine) and brand (Fanuc, Haas, Mazak, DMG Mori, Okuma, etc.). Note whether you're running modern controllers or legacy systems.

☐ 02 Part Dimensions & Weight

What are the dimensions and weights of the parts being loaded and unloaded? Include the full range across all part families run on this machine, and note how frequently you run changeovers.

☐ 03 Part Presentation & Fixturing

How are parts currently staged for the operator? Are they presented in gaylords, totes, fixtured trays, or loose bins? This determines whether vision-guided bin picking or structured fixturing is the right fit.

☐ 04 Cycle Times & Throughput

What is your current machine cycle time? How many parts per hour or shift are you targeting, both average and peak? This helps right-size the robot and determine whether multi-machine tending is worth scoping.

☐ 05 Number of Machines

How many spindles are you looking to automate? One robot can tend two or three machines in many configurations; knowing your machine count helps scope reach, track extensions, and cell layout.

☐ 06 Available Footprint

How much floor space is available at the machine for a tending cell? Measure floor area, ceiling height, and clearance around the machine, operator access points, and any adjacent equipment.

☐ 07 Quality & Gauging Requirements

Do you have in-process quality checks today, and do they need to stay in-cell? Note any gauging, inspection, or out-of-spec divert requirements that need to be integrated into the automation cell.

☐ 08 Controls & Integration

What controller does your machine run, and how does it currently signal cycle complete or door open? Compatible integration methods include M-code, Modbus, EtherNet/IP, and OPC UA; knowing your setup upfront avoids surprises at commissioning.

☐ 09 Production Line Features

Are there any environmental or handling factors that could affect automation? Call out washdown zones, coolant exposure, extreme temperatures, tight tolerances, hazardous materials, or any unusual safety requirements for the cell.

ALL 9 CHECKED?

You're ready for a quote. Reach out to us with your answers and we'll get started on a scoped quote right away.

Recover the spindle hours you're already paying for.