



Automating the Sterilization of Reusable Medical Equipment

- VAI2 Introduction
- Industry Innovation Competition Process Highlights
- Automation Goals
- Questions & Answers

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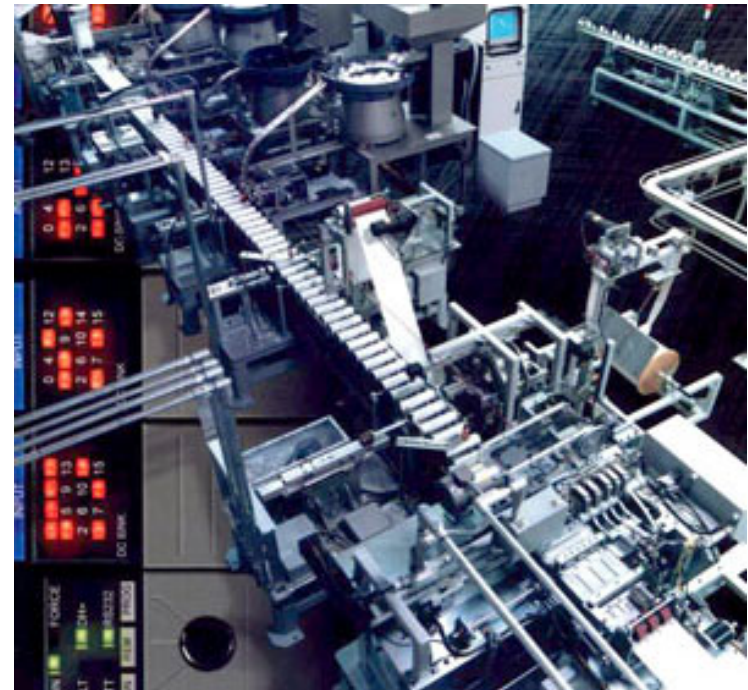
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US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
INNOVATION INITIATIVE

Completely Automated Sterile Processing & Distribution: An Ambitious Yet Feasible Goal



Eliminating Manual Processes to Improve Outcomes



= ERRORS

- Errors impact outcomes
 - Equipment availability
 - Rework
 - Quality of care



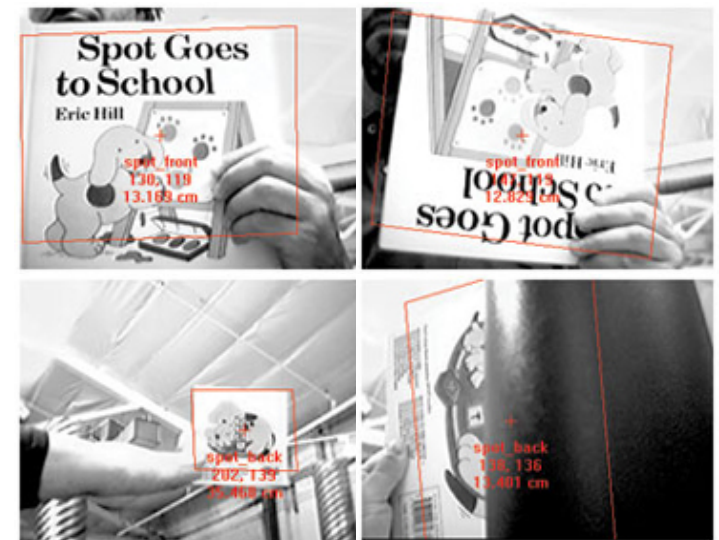
Our Goal: Completely Automated SPD

- “Conveyor belt-style” system: dirty instruments are fully sterilized, processed, and sent to their next destination without human intervention
- Several discrete components of this process exist in compartmentalized fashion
- Can we “fill in the blanks” and combine all steps into one automated SPD system?



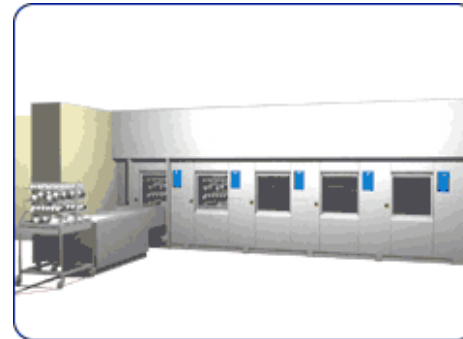
Device Recognition

- Accurately recognizing a device and its accessories is key to successfully initiating the automated process
- Could require some form of device tagging, such as RFID or etching
- Could use technologies such as optical recognition to identify unmodified devices



Transporting Instruments

- Instruments must be moved through the entire process, from machine to machine
- Must move both clean and dirty instruments without “collisions”
- Must manage throughput on multiple machines
- Eliminate manual handling between process steps



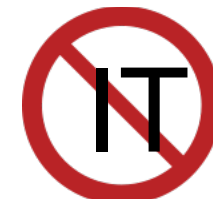
Electronic Sterilization Records and Safety Checks

- Automate the record keeping, too!
- Eliminate manual and paper records,
 - Accurate, complete sterilization data for review and analysis
- Minimize the burden on IT staff



The Ultimate System

- These are examples of individual technologies
- Can we create a system where:
 - Soiled instruments are placed in receptacles
 - Sterile processing takes place without human intervention
 - Clean instruments are distributed to the right locations



Improving Health Care Outcomes
Through Automation

Questions and Answers

- All questions with their answers from this webinar will be posted on both FedBizOpps (www.fbo.gov) and the VAI2 website (www.va.gov/vai2)

