The global thirst for minerals and metals has rubbed off on AB Allt i Plåt, a small company in southern Sweden that manufactures, among other products, cabs for mining machines and cranes.

A big step for a small company

It was a simple equation. The unemployment rate for professional welders in southern Sweden, in the region of Småland, is so low that the family-owned company Allt i Plåt (loosely translated as Everything Within Sheet Metal) decided to meet increased demand for its products with a welding system from Andon Automation based on a three-axis manipulator and a dedicated handling system.

Allt i Plåt, which employs about 50 people, have installed a robotic welding cell from Andon Automation with an abb robot (delivered by Andon Automation) in one of its large manufacturing halls as part of a company-wide modernization strategy – the biggest in the company’s history.

“We invested sek 25 million in 2007 to upgrade our facilities and modernize our equipment,” says Christer Persson, who took over the company with his brother and sister in 1995.

The changes in the factory are on a grand scale. Besides the robotic cell, which is used to weld up to 600 meters of joints on a 1,000-kilogram mining machine’s cab, Allt i Plåt has also installed a German-made Trumpf laser precision cutting machine in an adjacent 1,600-square-meter hall.

This machine takes the company’s raw material, sheets of steel 1,500 millimeters wide by 3,000 millimeters long in various thicknesses supplied by Sweden’s ssab, and cuts them into 40,000 different parts or arti-

>FACTS

Allt i Plåt’s benefits from automated welding
• Welding time per cab has decreased to around three hours, compared with a whole shift if done manually.
• Increases capacity and production.

Allt i Plåt chose the IRB 1600 robot with the IRC 5 steering system from Andon Automation, an engineering specialist within arc welding and thermal cutting applications based in Örebro, Sweden. The company partners exclusively with ABB.

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