

Using AI to detect flaws in parts saves hours in production time



Opportunity

GKN Aerospace teamed with Fujitsu to create an augmented defect recognition system, which can automatically inspect airplane parts to ensure they are flight-ready, reducing a process that used to take hours to minutes.

That is crucial because the manual inspection of each airplane part can take a long time and requires the work of highly skilled operators who themselves need around 1,400 hours of training.

Both demands make it hard to attract new recruits to the position, to say nothing of the fact that as planes grow more complicated, the parts that run them tend towards the more intricate.



Imagining IT Differently

Fujitsu's solution approach started with carrying out studies to determine ways that an AI could reliably recognize defects, first using pulse-echoes, then through-transmissions.

The potential impact of this new technology adoption makes it, according to ISG, a standout example of AI and automation.



Future Made Possible

The automated platform could speed up throughput by 50%, allowing a company to build more components with fewer staff. As Fujitsu and GKN Aerospace continue to develop the platform, they are exploring ways to implement it outside of inspections as well. For instance, the AI could detect repeating flaw patterns, allowing the company to identify and address the root cause for defects.



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