LELY ASTRONAUT
Robotic milking system

The natural way of milking…

www.lely.com
innovators in agriculture
The Lely Astronaut A4 robotic milking system

There are four reasons to opt for Lely:
1) The cow is key.
2) Highest milk quality ensured.
3) All you need to gain full control.

But most important of all:

4) Lely Astronaut; the natural way of milking...

Just like all our dairy solutions, the new Lely Astronaut A4 milking robot has been developed from a clear-cut starting point: the cow. The robot guarantees the highest achievable milk quality while its unique management tools ensure that you have full control over your herd. You can rely completely on the robot. And on us. 24/7.

Live Life Lely!
We are committed to making robotic milking a success on your farm as well!

You may be facing one of the most important choices as an entrepreneur. How to grow your business with as little labour as possible? You do realize that this will inevitably require automation. The switch towards automated milking is a major step. First of all, this requires a substantial investment. In addition, you may wonder how your cows will adjust to the system and how you can keep monitoring your herd effectively. We are convinced that automation is the best way to achieve optimal results with your available labour while maintaining maximum respect for your cows.
The cow is key
We have explicitly refrained from automating the actions of milking itself; instead we have built a system around the cow (our starting point) to make sure that cows like to be milked within a low-threshold system. Our truly unique robot arm concept as well as the I-flow concept for quick entrance in/quick exit from the box, are some clear examples of this strategy.

All you need to gain full control
We offer you a unique set of instruments to manage both milk quality as well as the individual cow in the herd. Management by exception is the new challenge. To facilitate that, we have developed management software dedicated to robotic farming, allowing you to spend your valuable time on the cows that really require attention, while gaining full control over your herd.

Highest milk quality assured
The unique Lely features ensure the most reliable detection of mastitis available in today’s market place. The unique in-line every day indication of fat and protein levels per cow can be used in the Lely Astronaut robot’s dynamic milking and feeding module for optimized profitability of the dairy farm.

Expanding horizons together
Being the inventors of the milking robot, we have now installed more than 10,000 automated milking systems worldwide. In addition, we are always looking for improvement. Not only improvement in terms of robotic milking, but also possibilities to automate other processes on dairy farms. We keep seeking ways to improve your labour efficiency significantly.

Dedicated to robotic management
A full network of specialised sales people, certified service engineers as well as dairy farm management specialists are fully poised to assist you. We would be more than happy to share with you the experience that we have gained over the years ensuring a solid framework for ongoing successful robotic management.

It’s a Lely
Year after year, we keep advancing both our organisation and product range with one single goal; to ensure a better future for cattle farmers all over the world.

Live Life Lely!

Alexander van der Lely
CEO Lely Group
Highest milk quality ensured – together we care for milk

Whether it is about sensors, our innovative and unique gentle way we treat milk in the system or the way we clean the udder, we are continuously looking for the best way to achieve the highest quality of milk. Our unique milk quality control (MQC) allows you to supply only first class milk.
A unique set of milk quality measurement tools
The Lely MQC (Milk Quality Control) is located inside the arm of the robot just beside the udder. During the milking, the milk is continuously monitored per quarter. This provides you with vital information on mastitis, fat and protein and lactose to manage milk quality and cow health; allowing you to respond quickly and achieve guaranteed optimal milk quality.

Brushes clean the best
The brushes will actually remove the dirt and manure, even if it sticks. It is the only cleaning system that cleans the area around the teats where teatcups can touch, as well as the bottom of the udder close to the teat. The brushes also provide a quick and most effective tactile stimulation, which is important for the cow's necessary release of the hormone oxytocin. Better stimulation will improve the connection time, the milk speed and therefore the robot capacity.

Optimal brush cleaning
The only available system that is disinfected with a chlorine-free detergent in between cleaning cows, preventing cross contamination.

The gentle way to transport milk
Compressed air pushes the milk towards the tank without damaging the milk by rotating impellers.

Lely MQC measures for each quarter essential parameters such as:
- Milk colour.
- Conductivity.
- Milk time.
- Dead milking times.
- Milk speed per quarter.
- Temperature.
All you need to gain full control – quick response for healthy cows

The Lely T4C management program organises information through indicators which are presented clearly on a dashboard. This provides you with a quick overview of the performance of the herd, the robotic milking system and attention cows.
All alerts are presented in one single transparent dashboard, allowing you to focus on the cows that need you the most. This is true management by exception!
Early detection for optimal results
The transition from conventional to robotic milking changes your daily routines. To keep cows healthy you require close monitoring. The robot provides you with much more information than you are used to. Every event from birth till the day she leaves the farm is stored in the Lely T4C program. On the one hand T4C helps you to supply an individual cow with all her needs for an optimal health, production and well-being. On the other hand the system provides farm specific information to control the herd. Prevention is better than cure, but early detection is the next best thing!

Achieve the optimum ratio
The T4C management program gives you the opportunity to reduce your feed cost because of higher feed efficiency. With the optional dynamic feeding module (DLM), the system automatically changes feed allocations per cow based on optimum cost benefit ratio. You can avail yourself of unique resources enabling you to maximize your profits; this is no longer about the cows producing most milk but rather about the cows yielding the best economic results.

One man, two million
An increase of labour productivity is desired to ensure a healthy dairy business in the future as well. Achieving more litres of milk per worker in an animal-friendly way; that is our challenge. On conventional dairy farms where milking is done twice a day now, production increases of 10 to 15% are easily realised by means of our milking
robot. Furthermore, we are constantly seeking new solutions which will enable you to automate other processes as well.

Get the most out of your milk
LeLy is the first to offer a standard in-line fat and protein indication system. From each milking fat, protein and lactose are analysed allowing you to monitor herd performance. LeLy has further improved its MQC-C quarter based somatic cell count analyser. This unique, second generation, inline system, determines the somatic cell count per quarter.

The result is healthier cows which leads to lower costs due to maximum productivity and lower veterinary costs.

Dynamic herd approach
Individual differences in feed efficiency and milk interval sensitivity provide the basis of the dynamic herd approach to gain the highest profit margin. With historic data recorded, the system predicts how each animal responds in total milk yield to a specific amount of concentrate or milk interval. Research has shown that by using dynamic milking, total daily milk output per robot is increased and that the available robot capacity is used more efficiently.

Health indicators registered by Lely T4C:
- Milk colour (per quarter).
- Fat/protein indication of the milk.
- Lactose indication of the milk.
- Conductivity of the milk (per quarter).
- Milk temperature.
- Somatic cell count category of the milk (per quarter).
- Rumination minutes of the cow.
- Cow activity.
- Cow weight.
- Milk production of the cow.
- Feed intake of the cow.
- Amount of rest feed of the cow.
- Milking time/dead milking time.
- (Max.) milking speed.
We proudly present... the Lely Astronaut A4

Better milk quality, higher milk production together with lower costs lead to higher profits. The Lely Astronaut A4 makes it possible to manage these three aspects to achieve the optimum results.
As few obstacles as possible
Robotic milking is different from conventional milking in many ways. One of the main differences is that cows can be milked more in line with their natural behaviour. To maximise the benefit of this we look for opportunities to create an environment where the cow can be milked under optimal conditions with as few obstacles as possible.

Straight ahead is more natural
The main revolutionary feature of the Lely Astronaut A4 cow box is the walkthrough design called the I-flow concept. As practice and research shows cows are not really capable of making turns. Allowing the cow to walk straight in and out of the box eliminates any unnecessary obstacles. The cow friendly design allows for continuous interaction with the rest of the herd thus eliminating unnecessary stress. With its unique innovations we have further increased the capacity of the Astronaut, ensuring it to be an unbeatable concept and allowing you to maximize your results.

Swinging feeding trough
By moving the trough after the milking the cow is ‘encouraged’ to leave the box since there is nothing in front of her and she can’t get more feed. A faster exit allows for a quicker entrance for the next cow. Although this advantage may look minimal, gaining five seconds per milking can easily result in 15 minutes per day or one extra cow!

Faster milking with fewer movements
To ensure optimal milking, ideally different settings per quarter are required. The Lely 4Effect pulsation system can adjust pulsation settings at quarter level. It ensures a truly individual treatment of the cow and, hence, “tailor-made milking”. The robust Lely robot arm is tried and true ever since its first installation in 1992. The robotic arm eliminates unnecessary movements, is much gentler for the cow, makes it impossible for milk cups to drop onto the ground and provides for the fastest attachment.

The tools to make the best management decisions
With our nearly 20 years of experience, we were able to develop a dedicated robotic farm management system; the new Lely T4C management program. T4C is collecting and recording all the data provided by the Astronaut robots through its many sophisticated sensors. It helps you with making important management decisions with refined software that analyses and presents only clear and useful information. The objective is clear: allow farmers to make the best decision easier and quicker.
Three powerful statements stating why Lely machines stand out from their competitors. Innovative thinking by our engineers often results in surprisingly effective solutions for making our products even more efficient. Durability and ease of operation are always key to these efforts. Therefore, we at Lely quite rightly say: “We are the innovators in agriculture”. Our unremitting efforts are aimed at improving the farmers’ social and financial wellbeing.

The central unit is an essential part of the new modular set up of the Lely Astronaut A4 robotic milking system. It features a central vacuum and cleaning system for up to two cow units. The central unit is self-contained and a configuration with two cow units can span a distance up to thirty metres. The cow units are available in a left or right handed version and you are offered a choice of two models, both offering the choice of additional options.
Smarter!

1 The gentle milk-friendly pump
Lely developed a unique milk pump with a simple replaceable silicone bladder which transports the milk to the tank without rotating impellers which can damage the milk. Through this gently and hygienic method of pumping milk we ensure the highest possible milk quality.

2 A 3D camera for swift teat cup attachment
The size and movements of the cow are monitored with a revolutionary 3D camera. This system also makes the arm move with the cow offering an unrivalled reach, regardless of the size of the cow. Swift teat cup attachment is ensured for high and low udders, udders with teats that are spaced far apart or close together or slightly pointing outwards.

3 Lely brushes
Research has proven that the unique counter rotating brushes – together with the precise arm movements – guarantee up to 40% more effective cleaning and stimulation as compared to conventional situations.
Faster!

4 The Lely 4Effect Pulsator
The Lely 4Effect Pulsator is the first revolutionary breakthrough in milking technique in the past 30 years. With the information flow coming from the Lely MQC proper adjustments to the pulsation are made dynamically at quarter level. This ensures a truly individual treatment of the cow and, hence, “tailor-made milking”.

3 I-flow quick entrance/quick exit concept of the cow unit
Thanks to the I-flow concept of the cow unit the cow walks straight in and out of the unit without making turns. This is making it easier on the cow which shortens the learning curve and increases the throughput.

4 A unique teat detection system (TDS) for fast detection and connection
The speed and subsequently the capacity of the robot is a crucial factor. Our TDS features three-layer scanning technology which ensures quick and accurate detection of the teats. Since the unique robotic arm has most of the milking components integrated it only has to make a few short movements to connect the teat cups. This eliminates unnecessary movements, is much gentler for the cow and provides for the fastest possible attachment.
Stronger!

7 The Lely Astronaut arm
This is a well proven unique concept; the arm remains underneath the cow and controls the entire milking process. The robustness and pneumatic control of the arm make sure that even if the cow should stand on it, nothing is damaged.

8 Fewest movements
The construction of the Lely Astronaut is very elementary. The amount of moving parts is limited and the necessary movements are very short and gentle thus reducing wear and tear on the robot.

9 Durable construction
Lely only uses first class materials. This leads to lower service costs and a long product lifetime which results in a lower cost of ownership and a high trade-in value. Several key components of the milking robot come with a five year warranty!
Tailor made to suit you best

Every farm is different, and every farmer has other needs, that’s why we deliver our Lely Astronaut A4 prepared for your farm. Today there are two models Astronaut A4 with additional options to configure the Astronaut A4 designed on your needs.

Manager model

The Manager model is made of stainless steel and features an upgraded E-link control. The 12 inch E-link Manager colour touch screen control unit on the Astronaut A4 is capable of running T4C effortlessly. It allows for real management on the spot. This provides you with the same user interface and functionality as T4C on your PC and can be very useful for quick data entry as close as possible to the cow, thereby minimizing any chance of errors or omissions.

Operator model

The Operator model features a galvanized cow unit and E-link. The E-link operator consists of a high quality 10 inch colour touch screen that contains the key functions to run the robot properly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Astronaut A4</th>
<th>Manager</th>
<th>Operator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galvanised cow unit</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stainless steel cow unit</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravitor weighing floor</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One feed type</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second feed type</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third feed type</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth feed type</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed presence sensor</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral metering device</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titania</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQC-C</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pura steam cleaning</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffer cleaning system</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Very stable thick walled – 3.1 mm – hot galvanised cow unit.
- Thick walled – 3.1 mm – high quality stainless steel cow unit.
- Measuring is knowing; very accurate stable weighing floor offering you more information of the health of your cows.
- New concentrate dispenser designed for straights in order to give your cow the highest quality feed in the Astronaut A4.
- Additional second feed dispenser.
- Additional third feed dispenser.
- Additional fourth feed dispenser.
- It checks to see if there is feed in the manger.
- For individual feeding of minerals and supplements.
- Liquid feed dispenser dosing directly in the feeding bin.
- Gives you the level of somatic cells in the milk for each and every cow.
- Cleaning the milkunit with hot steam – 150° C – between every milking.
- With the buffer cleaning system the Astronaut A4 has a reserve for one day before you will run out of chemicals. You will be informed early enough to change the can.

S = Standard on the Astronaut A4  /  O = Optional on the Astronaut A4  /  X = Not available on the Astronaut A4

We offer a range of Lely Qwes tag-systems which provide unparalleled accuracy for 24/7 monitoring of cow reproductive and health status. RFID/ISO tags can only be combined with the Operator model; infrared tags can only be combined with the Manager model.

Lely is committed to offering improved and sustainable performance over the long term. This includes optimum service at your farm when it comes to specifically developed cleaning and udder health products, feeding additives as well as Lely Original wear parts for the Lely Astronaut milking robot. Certain products may not be available in individual countries and products supplied may differ from those illustrated.
Accessories for the Lely Astronaut A4

The Lely Astronaut robotic milking system is designed with dedicated focus on optimum wellbeing for you and your animals. With a view to optimizing the situation of both the dairy farmer and his cows, we have complemented our milking robot with a range of exceptionally useful accessories.

**Lely Pura steam cleaning system**
The Lely Pura steam cleaning system kills 99% of all bacteria in the teat cups without the use of detergents, thus offering maximum security in respect of udder health, food safety and the environment.

**Lely MQC-C milk quality control system**
To determine the somatic cell count per quarter during each milking, samples from each individual quarter are analyzed. At the end of each milking, the information is directly available in your management system.

**Lely Titania liquid feed dispenser**
The dispenser doses various fluids on top of the concentrates in the feeding trough of the robot. Basically, this metering unit has been developed to avoid the problem of ketosis by adding propylene glycol to the concentrates.

**Lely M4Use milk separation unit**
The Lely Astronaut milking robot provides several ways to separate milk. Fixed periods for milk separation can be set by means of the management programme. Milk that does not meet the quality settings can be either dumped or collected in M4Use. You can also separate milk on an individual basis.

**Compact cooler**
The inside of the tank contains a twisted tube, made out of one single piece thus eliminating any welded connections. Due to this special construction, there is no risk of contamination of the milk with cooling water.

**Lely Shuttle sampling device**
The Lely Shuttle milk sampling unit is officially ICAR-approved for milk recording. The Shuttle automatically takes a sample of each milking during the period of milk recording.

**Twin filter – flexible filter change**
The twin filter automatically switches from one filter to the other after each main cleaning. More robots can be managed through one filter, saving you extra filters.

**Cow identification system**
Lely supplies a range of ISO/RF and Infrared-identification tags, for identification and cow activity measurement. Unique in the dairy market is Lely Qwes-HR which is also measuring ruminating activity, providing farmers a wealth of additional information on cow health.
A perfect fit – also for large dairy farms

Increasing labour costs and benefits from individual cow management are just two reasons why large dairy farms are becoming more and more aware that the Lely Astronaut robotic milking system ensures the best return on investment. We boast many years of practical experience and excellent results on both large and small dairy farms.
Treat her well
It is well known that chasing after cows and letting them wait to be milked will not result in the optimum yield. The tendency therefore is to reduce the herd to a manageable size. The Lely Astronaut robotic milking system will allow you to take it one step further; your cow will be allowed to visit the robot at her own pace, stimulated by her need for concentrates. This will result in frequent milking and lower stress levels for the cow. Cows will easily last at least one more lactation.

The most reliable employee imaginable
For the owner of a large dairy farm, the ultimate dream is to hire employees who are highly motivated, well-organized and keen to work with cows. Investing in a Lely Astronaut robotic milking system will offer you the most reliable employee you can imagine. This robot employee is there to milk for you 24/7 for years to come. It is flexible and fully trained to prepare the cow for milking, to attach the teat cups, to reattach in the event this is required, to detach after milking and to carry out post dipping.

Who likes to be turned around?
The I-flow concept for quick entrance and quick exit allows cows to enter the robot straight ahead. In addition, the box itself is spacious and offers the cow complete freedom. It stimulates the cow to enter of her own free will and the way out is also straight ahead. There is simply no other milking system where the hurdle to be milked is so low. “Cows get used to the system much sooner than their manager does” is a phrase we hear our customers say quite often. Farms with our robotic milking system are always considered to have the quietest herds.

Easier-to-manage logistics
In large herds, it is always difficult to find the cow that needs special attention. Lely’s advice is to compose groups per two robots. If a cow requires to be treated, she can either be found easily in the relatively small group or automatically separated after each milking. The result is the optimum use of your labour and building resources.

Entirely different to robotizing a parlour
When the herd is getting too big, nobody knows the individual cow, so we have to deal with the herd. Thanks to the Astronaut robotic milking system, many factors can be monitored on an individual cow basis; factors that cannot be controlled in a conventionally milked herd. Successful robotic milking is a new style of farm management whereby the decisions are transferred from the farmer to the cow. It is all about early warning signals. The T4C management program combines data and, in addition to the daily attentions, displays information for long term analysis. You can treat your cows individually again… and that results in improved cow health, shorter calving intervals and reduction of feed cost, just to mention a few.

Smarter automation
By automating the milking process on large dairy farms the system can fully utilize the genetic capacity of each individual cow for maximum profit. Dynamic processes such as milking or feeding concentrates are regulated by the management software and will optimize the margin per cow using the strength of the individual cow to make 1 + 1 = 3.

Robotic milking is financially more attractive
Getting the right return on investment is always the key factor in any management decision. The extra costs of depreciation and maintenance are easily offset by less labour costs and improved cow health.

We are here to support you
Managing a farm with ten milking robots obviously requires a different management approach. We have a dedicated in-house “large farm team” ready to support you.
Together we can make a difference

Our corporate slogan “Live Life Lely” stands for our core values: committed people, innovation, independence and respect. Respect means we aim to manage the social and environmental impacts that our products and services may have and we accept our responsibility with respect to sustainable development of the agricultural sector. Consequently, producing sustainable products which leave a minimal footprint are becoming an essential part of our modern life.
A sustainable agricultural sector
Agricultural entrepreneurship and the environment are closely linked, because they impact one another. Dairy farmers are in the frontline when it comes to climate change and therefore Lely is making every effort to support farmers in seeking sustainable solutions for the issues they have to address in their day-to-day business like water conservation, methane, energy and waste management.

Minimized consumption of energy and water
All our products stand out with their minimum energy consumption. Independent research has shown that the Lely Astronaut has the lowest power and water consumption in the market place. This benefit saves you quite some costs on a yearly basis!

Durable developments
In addition, all of our products distinguish themselves through unrivalled durability. Even today you can still find the finger wheel rake – Lely’s first invention in the middle of the last century – on many farms all over the world!

The durability and the ability to recondition the Lely Astronaut robotic milking system means the machine has minimal waste as well as ensuring a sustainable investment. Used Astronaut milking robots retain their value considerably longer than other milking systems.

Furthermore, the covers of our new Lely Astronaut A4 consist of high quality recycled plastics.

Truly animal friendly
To us sustainability also means unconditional respect for animals. The cow is the starting point for each and every dairy product. As consumers are paying increasing attention to how products are being produced, a demand for sustainable products becomes more and more evident. This is another reason why Lely strongly advocates the concept of free cow traffic.

Independent research executed by Dansk Landbrugsrådgivning clearly shows that Lely realises more milkings per cow, with the lowest power and water consumption per cow, resulting in significantly lower annual costs as well as a higher production per system.

Source: Dansk Landbrugsrådgivning, 2009.

Annual costs of electricity and water per cow for 2.5 milkings per 24 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Annual costs (€)</th>
<th>Test Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeLaval VMS</td>
<td>51,24</td>
<td>2 tested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lely Astronaut A3</td>
<td>64,97</td>
<td>2 tested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fullwood Merlin</td>
<td>42,77</td>
<td>1 tested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAC RDS Futureline</td>
<td>66,15</td>
<td>1 tested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEA TITAN</td>
<td>70,00</td>
<td>1 tested</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It’s a Lely

Originating from a farm, we know what it is like to wake up early in the morning. To spend hours in the barn, day in, day out, ensuring optimal treatment of your herd. Feeling the challenge of increasing scale with a view to ensuring a sustainable future. Dairy farming is something we live to do. And we understand how you work, and why.
Helping you progress
Meccano at the roots of an international company that is currently active in more than 60 countries worldwide and employs 1,300 people? It sounds like a boy’s dream. And yet the unique vision and dynamic attitude of the two brothers Cornelis and Arij van der Lely have made this dream come true. The machines that they put together with Meccano as a child have become a reality under their inspiring leadership. And assisted by their vision and that of the second generation, thousands of co-workers have made the lives of tens of thousands of cattle farmers and contractors both much more enjoyable as well as profitable since 1948 thanks to their unremitting dedication and inspiration.

We share your passion
It is your appreciation that motivates us to take it one step further. There is still a lot more to be done. Every day we are challenged to think out new solutions for your issues in dairy farming. We listen carefully to the things that are on your mind, allowing us to create concepts that are a great help to you as a dairy farmer. It is not just our job. We definitely share your passion for cattle farming. And we are committed to helping you create a bright future for your dairy farm.

A unique concept for sales and service
Obviously, it is essential that suppliers and customers are close to one another so that all relevant expertise and experience can be shared. However, we like to keep the Lely organisation as lean and mean as possible, and continue to focus primarily on research and the development of new concepts for the dairy industry. That’s why we introduced the Lely Center concept. This formula embraces close to 200 self-contained companies spread across Europe, North America and Oceania; numbers are still growing. Each and every Lely Center facility is situated close to the dairy farmers in its region. It is a unique concept for outsourcing sales and service functions while controlling the overall quality of product, service and brand. To keep in touch with end users, we have deliberately chosen to continue operating a number of Lely Center facilities ourselves. The Lely Center is your local point of contact – an efficient, compact and low-threshold organisation that boasts the required local knowledge as well as extensive expertise on Lely products.

The best of both worlds
We will continue our never-ending quest for solutions that help you progress while gladly entrusting the service on your farm to our dedicated Lely Center facilities. In doing so, we will continue offering you the best of both worlds.
Some myths about robotic milking…

1) Robotic milking boils down to an automatic parlour
Successful robotic milking is not a matter of simply automating the parlour. It is a new style of farm management whereby the decisions shift from the farmer to the cow. Thanks to the Astronaut robotic milking system there are many factors also in big herds that can be controlled on an individual cow basis; factors that cannot be controlled in a conventionally milked herd. Increasing labour costs and benefits from individual cow management are just two reasons why large dairy farms are becoming more and more aware that the Lely Astronaut robotic milking system ensures the best return on investment. We boast many years of practical experience and excellent results on both large and small dairy farms.

2) A box system is not suitable for large farms
Considering continuously increasing labour cost and benefits from improved cow health due to more data and less stress in the herd, large dairy farms also increasingly realize that our Astronaut robotic milking system ensures the best return on investment. We boast many years of practical experience as well as research results on large farms. Obviously, managing a farm with more than eight milking robots does require a different management approach and a dedicated in-house “large farm team” is ready to support those farms.

3) A robot is only affordably for the happy few
The benefits of our modular system are clear. The more robots you consider, the more competitive total pricing will be. However, we have made it our mission to develop a concept for ambitious dairy farmers. Such a concept is affordable for those dairy farmers who limit their milk production to 300,000 litres per year and for dairy farms that produce well over 10 million litres of milk annually.