

Mitsubishi Electric previews extension to its range with collaborative robot

Supporting humans with a full complement of robot features and equipment on board

SPS IPC Drives 2017, 28th –30th November 2017, Nuremberg
Hall 7 / Stand 7-391

At SPS IPC Drives from 28 - 30 November 2017 in Nuremberg, Mitsubishi Electric is setting up a demonstration of production in an Industry 4.0 environment that will include a new collaborative robot, working together with an operator without safety barriers.

Collaborative robots are designed to work in close proximity with people in a production cell, unlike fast and powerful industrial robots which have to be located behind protective barriers for safety reasons. Free from this restriction, collaborative robots can be readily and flexibly deployed anywhere in the production environment.

Importantly, while the precision of some collaborative robots may be reduced in comparison with industrial versions, the Mitsubishi Electric model's performance characteristics mirror those of the company's industrial autonomous robot range. This means a repeat accuracy of ± 0.02 mm, despite the inclusion of sensitive force/torque sensors. Load capacity of the shown robot model is between 5 and 6 kg and reach is between 800 and 1000 mm.

As well as performance, Mitsubishi Electric has also addressed ease of use, with innovative and, to date, unique control and programming options. A touch-screen operator terminal, which can be plugged into the robot, provides an intuitive interface to 'teach' the robot its task, without any special programming expertise. The teach functionality includes a 'direct control' mode which allows the operator to move the robot from position to position, by hand and with controlled force. Once the set-up is complete, the operator terminal is easily removed to give the robot full freedom of movement.

The launch of the new collaborative MELFA robot marks the company's first dedicated development in the area of Human-Robot Cooperation (HRC). The robot's introduction on Stand 7-391 at the Nuremberg trade fair coincides with its official premier at the International Robot Exhibition (iREX) in Tokyo.

Note:

Learn more about Mitsubishi Electric's presence at SPS IPC Drives
eu3a.mitsubishielectric.com/SPS

See how Mitsubishi Electric is able to respond to today's automation demands:
eu3a.mitsubishielectric.com/fa/en/solutions

Photo Caption: Mitsubishi Electric's current range of robots (pictured above) will be extended with the new collaborative MELFA robot which supports humans with a full complement of robot features and equipment on board.

[Source: Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., Getty Images]

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Note to Editor: if you would like the text in another language please contact Philip Howe at DMA Europa – philip@dmaeuropa.com.

About Mitsubishi Electric

With nearly 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is a recognised world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, as well as in products for the energy sector, transportation and building equipment.

The company recorded consolidated group sales of 4,444.4 billion yen (in accordance with IFRS; US\$ 41.9 billion*) in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2018.

Our sales offices, research & development centres and manufacturing plants are located in over 30 countries.

Factory Automation – European Business Group

Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., Factory Automation - European Business Group (FA-EBG) has its European headquarters in Ratingen near Dusseldorf, Germany. It is a part of Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan.

The role of FA-EBG is to manage sales, service and support across its network of local branches and distributors throughout the EMEA region.

*Exchange rate 106 Yen = 1 US Dollars, last updated 31.03.2018 (Source: Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market)

Editor Contact

DMA Europa Ltd : Philip Howe

Tel: +44 (0)1562 751436

Fax: +44 (0)1562 748315

Web: www.dmaeuropa.com

Email: philip@dmaeuropa.com

Company Contact

Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V. : Monika Torkel

Tel: +49 (0)2102 486-2150

Fax: +49 (0)2102 486 7780

Web: eu3a.mitsubishielectric.com/fa

Email: Monika.Torkel@meg.mee.com