

PRESS RELEASE

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Using cobots to automate industrial production – Find out how in the Open Space Cobot Solutions Area at EMO Hannover

Frankfurt am Main, 28 August 2023. – Automation is a topic of great interest to industry right now – and also a focus topic at EMO Hannover 2023, which will be opening its doors from September 18 to 23. Many of the approximately 1,800 exhibitors are expected to be showcasing products and services in this field.

"Automation has been a major topic in recent years for cost reasons, but it is now also attracting renewed attention as a result of the shortage of skilled workers, the uncertainties in the supply chain and also the increasing demands with regard to sustainable growth," says Dr. Wilfried Schäfer, Executive Director of EMO organizer VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association), Frankfurt am Main. In any case, there are now record levels of robot

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installations, with more than 570,000 new systems being installed worldwide last year, according to forecasts from the International Federation of Robotics. Companies across all industries are investing heavily in automation to help them maintain their productivity and competitiveness but also to boost their resilience and flexibility. Automated processes also allow them to meet increasing demand more effectively.

“Cobots” – collaborative industrial robots – constitute a special niche within the robot market. Demand is increasing significantly here, too. “Today’s market offers a wide range of cobots with longer ranges which are capable of handling higher payloads. Entire business ecosystems are now developing around the collaborative industrial robots. These include not only the robot itself, but also compatible plug & play accessories such as grippers, image processing systems, measuring systems, software, industrial electronics, feeding systems and even online application manufacturers,” explains Schäfer.

Cobots are spreading very quickly throughout industry, which is why EMO Hannover is now offering its own Open Space Cobot Solutions Area on Stand A54 in Hall 9. The nine exhibitors on the joint stand – Elite Robots, Fanuc, Hannweber, Ifsys, Kassow Robots, Kuka, Lorch, Robco and Sick – are keen to support their customers as they move into new business areas. They will be showcasing AI solutions for mobile robots and augmented reality applications, for example. A further key factor is that the robots are easy and intuitive to re-program when requirements change. Two examples: Kuka, based in Augsburg, Germany, is presenting a flexible and easy-to-use cobot. Visitors can check this out for themselves by putting a hand-guided and programmable unit through its paces at the event. Benjamin Woltmann, Marketing Manager at

Kuka Germany, says: "Our declared aim is to make the programming and operation of a robot as simple as that of a standard smartphone."

Robco GmbH from Munich is pursuing a similar strategy. The company has combined a patented modular robot with an easy-to-program software suite and with a highly flexible and fully networked industrial robot. "This allows us to radically rethink how products are made," says Sina Isabell Springer, Global Partner Manager Marketing, Branding & CRM Lead at Robco. The modularity of the robot guarantees maximum flexibility: it can be reprogrammed for a new process in a short time if the project or the requirements change. Connecting up a special robot kit allows wear and tear or potential problems with the robot to be checked remotely and minimized at an early stage.

Exhibitors will be able to showcase their highlights not only on the joint stand, but also in the Innovation Forum in Hall 9, G32. Click <https://visitors.emo-hannover.de/de/suche/> for the full program.

Background

EMO Hannover 2023 – Weltleitmesse der Produktionstechnologie

Around 1,750 manufacturers of production technology from 42 countries will be presenting smart technologies from the entire value chain at EMO Hannover 2023 from 18 to 23 September 2023. Under the banner of *Innovate Manufacturing*, the world's leading trade fair for production technology will showcase the entire range of modern metalworking technology which is at the heart of every industrial production process. The latest equipment will be on display, as will efficient technical solutions, product-related services, sustainable production methods and much more besides. The main focus of EMO Hannover is on cutting and forming machine tools, manufacturing systems, precision tools, automated material handling, computer technology, industrial electronics and accessories. EMO visitors come from all major industrial sectors including machine and plant construction, the automotive industry and parts suppliers, aerospace technologies, precision engineering and optics, shipbuilding, medical engineering, tool and mold making, steel and lightweight construction. EMO Hannover is the number one international meeting place for the industry. EMO is a registered trademark of the European machine tool association Cecimo. EMO is organized by the VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association), Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Pictures

Picture 01: **KUKA KMR iiwa**, The KMR iiwa is a combination of the sensitive lightweight robot LBR iiwa and a mobile, flexible platform. Source: KUKAAG

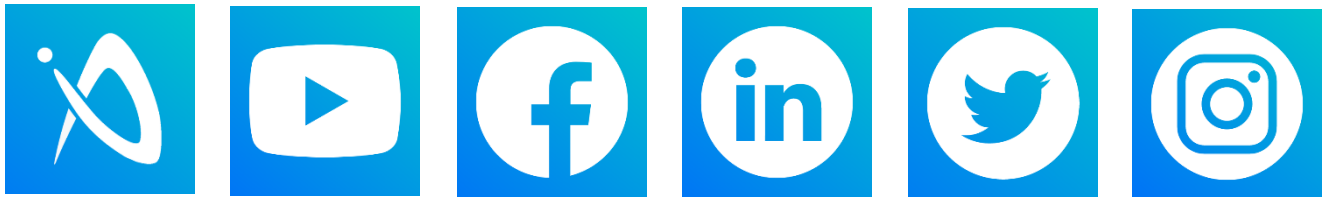
Picture 02: **Sina Isabell Springer**, Global Partner Manager Marketing, Branding & CRM Lead. Source: Robco

Picture 03: **Dr. Wilfried Schäfer**, Managing Director VDW. Source: VDW

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