

November 17, 2006

ABB announce new agile spot welder

Compact, agile and flexible

Västerås, Sweden, November 17, 2006 – ABB today announced the launch of a new compact spot welding robot, IRB 6620. The new robot opens up opportunities for new flexible and improved line concepts.

There is a trend for highly flexible concepts within the automotive manufacturing industry; part of the concept is that work pieces are being handled by, for instance, track motions that move them into the robot working area. This creates new possibilities for reducing the size of the robot station. At the same time, there is a demand for greater model variety, shorter product life cycles and continuing ROCE (Return On Capital Employed) pressure on the market.

“Our target was to develop the most versatile spot welding robot on the market. IRB 6620 is compact and agile, and optimized for spot welding. IRB 6620 has been developed together with our major automotive customers and features a lot of customer values, such as compactness and agility, which still continue with traditional ABB trademarks such as collision resistance and low maintenance costs,” says Ola Svanström, Product Manager, ABB Robotics.

The unique compactness and agility of IRB 6620 makes it possible to mount the robot floor standing, inverted and in tilted positions. The low total weight of the robot, 900 kilos, makes it easy to install and handle without the need for heavy-lifting cranes.

IRB 6620 will also be an excellent tool for other applications like sand core handling and cutting as it can be mounted in an inverted position. Another example is that the robot’s very low weight will be a great advantage in machine tending applications where you often want to put the robot on top of a machine.

“We expect this robot to be a high volume product in the automotive industry and a valuable player also in other industries like foundry, plastics and machine tooling,” concludes Ola Svanström.

About ABB Robotics:

ABB has the world's largest installed base of industrial robots - also providing robot software, peripheral equipment and modular manufacturing cells for tasks such as assembly, painting and finishing, and machine tending. Key markets include the automotive, foundry, packaging, material handling and consumer industries. A strong solution focus leverages thousands of successful applications for manufacturers worldwide.

About ABB:

This group is part of ABB Ltd. who is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group operates in around 100 countries and employs about 107,000 people.

ABB Robotics

Att: Karin Dunberg
Lunnagårdsgatan 4
SE-431 87 Mölndal
Sweden
Phone: +46 70 36 12 888
Fax: +46 31-773 85 50
E-mail: karin.dunberg@se.abb.com