

Press Release



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New easy-to-use software improves robot-based diecasting productivity

RobotWare DieCast makes ABB robots easier to install, easier to program and easier to operate

Västerås, Sweden, 1 August 2006 – ABB, the global power and automation technology group, has launched RobotWare DieCast, a powerful software product for easy programming and operation of ABB robots, dedicated to machine tending and post processing.

RobotWare DieCast delivers significant productivity benefits to the diecasting operation, which can be summarised as: 1) rapid set-up 2) high availability through quick error recovery 3) high reliability through on-line production review, safe home run and advanced error handling, and 4) excellent flexibility for short product cycles due to easy programming and optimisation.

RobotWare DieCast software is a powerful tool for enhancing robot operation and production, incorporating important features such as safe home run, user authorisation, Remote control, hot edit, production statistics, and event log; while providing an easy-to-use, standardised and structured method of programming for machine tending operations.

RobotWare DieCast is a fully documented, quality assured product that guarantees the successful installation and configuration of ABB robots into a machine tending cell.

RobotWare DieCast is exceptionally easy to set-up, with very little prior knowledge of programming required. Using the software's seven-step, programming wizard in combination with the IRC5 'FlexPendant' control and its colour symbol-based, keystroke operation, one can swiftly create sophisticated machine tending programs, to match all production requirements.

More experienced robot programmers can utilise the software's RAPID program to create and modify individual stations and grippers. The combination of symbol-based programming and RAPID modifications give a very powerful and flexible programming tool.

Customised production cycles are initiated with a single keystroke in the production window of the FlexPendant screen. Robot movements are displayed in real time on the screen and colour icons display the status of each respective robot station.

In the event of a problem occurring at an individual station, RobotWare DieCast can allow the robot to continue production around the problem station. If the power supply is cut-off during operation, the robot can restart at exactly the same position and system status as before the power failure. The home run feature takes the robot from any situation where it has stopped, even emergency stop, to the home position without any need to jog the robot within a cell. If required 'safety zones' can also be defined and programmed in.

RobotWare is a family of controller software products designed to make manufacturers more productive and lower the costs of owning and operating a robot. RobotWare ensures optimal process performance through ABB's advanced Motion Technology, which has the most accurate path holding characteristics on the market. Motion control is the key to the robot's performance in the area of path accuracy, speed, cycle time, programmability and synchronisation with external devices. By improving these parameters users improve quality, productivity and reliability.

ABB (www.abb.com/robotics) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 104,000 people.

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