



Press Release

For your business and technology editors

Release Date: May 9th, 2007

New arc-welding robot based on ABB's best-selling IRB 1600

In the new IRB 1600ID (Integrated Dressing), all cables and hoses are routed inside the upper arm – prolonging cable service life, improving lifetime prediction and simplifying robot programming.

The IRB 1600ID is based on ABB's high-end, middle-class robot IRB 1600. But unlike the best-selling standard version, the IRB 1600ID has its dresspack routed inside the robot's upper arm – making the robot perfectly suitable for arc welding.

The dresspack carries all the media necessary for arc welding, including power, , welding wire, shielding gas and pressure air.

Longer and more predictable dresspack lifetime

On a conventional robot, the dresspack runs externally along the robot's upper arm. Each time the robot arm moves, the dresspack comes into swing – causing wear and reduced cable lifetime. The irregular motion pattern of the dresspack also makes it difficult to predict its lifetime.

In contrast, the integrated dressing used in IRB 1600ID allows the dresspack to follow every motion of the robot arm instead of coming into swing, ensuring a longer and more predictable lifetime.

Compact design

Integrated dressing makes the robot's outer dimensions smaller. This extends the robot system's real working range, a crucial factor when welding on fixtures

with a complex geometry. It also eliminates the risk of damaging the dresspack in case of collision with the fixture.

What you see is what you get

When programming a conventional robot, there is always a blind spot. Because of the external routing and unpredictable motion of the dresspack, programmers have to use their imagination to ensure the dresspack won't hit anything during operation.

With the IRB 1600ID, the geometry of the robot is well defined. This means that programmers can disregard the impact of an external dresspack on the robot's motion pattern, and focus on optimizing the process instead.

Available as a standard robot or part of a turnkey solution

The IRB 1600ID is the latest addition to ABB's increasing range of specialized arc-welding solutions. The robot is available as a standard robot or equipped with all the necessary arc-welding process equipment.

Customers can also choose to have the robot delivered as part of ABB's turnkey arc-welding concept FlexArc, which also includes the IRC5 robot controller, power source, positioner and related process equipment. The IRB 1600ID is available in all major markets worldwide.

RELEASE ENDS

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NOTE TO EDITORS

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 108,000 people.

ABB ROBOTICS

ABB is the world's leading robot manufacturer. We are global leaders, yet still committed to building strong customer relationships. Our customers benefit from both global competence and local accessibility. Whether you're looking for an off-the-shelf or a tailor-made solution, we can provide the system to suit your needs. In the field of robotics, ABB operates through a network of over 5,000 employees based in some 100 countries around the world. There are more than 140,000 ABB robots installed worldwide.

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