More cars mean more robots

At Shanghai Volkswagen, a new system for body in white and roller hemming will help the company meet increased demand.

ABO has provided SVW with a complete body-in-white framing welding line and sunroof hemming station for SVW’s new production line. The line includes robotic workstations, robotic hemming technology, ABB FlexTrack, Audi flexible drive system for framing, laser welding station, fixtures and service, among other items. The lines were put into service in July 2007 and into production in April 2008, with a capacity of 24 cars per hour and a planned output of 100,000 cars per year.

“The Project Team, with great support from the engineering team at our global lead center in France help SVW to overcome the technical challenges on this project,” says Herve Chevalier, head of ABB Robotics at ABB China. The Audi flexible drive system for framer technology applied in this project is standardized for VW’s body production line roof and panel position welding process.

This project is the first time where ABB uses the technology from Audi combined with ABB FlexFramer technology to create unique and flexible aerospace production equipment within VW plants worldwide. The development of the inherent technology broke many technical barriers, says Chevalier, and created a unique technical solution, proven to be fully adaptive to and flexible for SVW’s production lines.

Key to the choice of ABB was its “customized solution and competitive price in defeating the competitors and winning this order,” Says Li Gang, Head of ABB Robotics Automotive Industry China.

“A customized solution and a competitive price are key to the success...”

Li Gang, Head of ABB Robotics Automotive Industry China

Features:

Increase in robots for China
ABB China BIW Team has received a series of orders since its establishment in 2004, including a flexible welding and assembly line system for BBDC’s Chrysler 300C and Chrysler Sebring, a body production line and robotic hemming system for DPCA’s new family cars such as C-Triumph, Peugeot 206 and its upgraded edition, and a welding and assembly shop system for SAIC Roewe 750.