

World Robotics 2009 Industrial Robots

Foreword

Dear Reader,

The IFR Statistical Department has created this in depth analysis of the robotics markets and trends in cooperation with regional and national robotics organizations and robot manufacturers. We are proud of "World Robotics" becoming the international standard and benchmark for robotics statistics.

Surely, chapter IV "Forecast" will be even more important than in recent years. But also forecasting was more difficult than in the past, because the world economy is suffering the worst recession in post-war history. For 2009, we forecast 66,400 units, a minus of 40% in industrial robotics. But shipments will increase again in the period of 2010 - 2012.

Looking back to 2008, even with the first impact of this economic crisis, the industrial robotics market remained on the high level of 2007!

In spite of the worldwide economic and financial crisis, robotics and automation is still one of the fastest growing industries of the last 20 years. And, this unbelievable success story will go on for many more years – as well for industrial as for service robotics! To show this existing and future potential of the robotics industry and to fill this statistics with life, we have included future trends of robotics and of customer industries (Chapter IV) as well as case studies in chapter V and the new chapter VI with special features showing how robotics increases efficiency and conquers new markets with fascinating high tech solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Bauer', is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Andreas Bauer
Chairman IFR Industrial Robot Supplier Group