

Frankfurt, 30 September 2009

Statements of key people of the robotics industry on World Robotics 2009:

“With the launch of World Robotics 2009, the IFR Statistical Department has once again proved to be the true Benchmark for Global Robotics Statistics, now also including Service Robotics.

With its in-depth research and analysis - including macro economical trends - and future projections based on the necessity for the manufacturing industry to resume robotics automation investments, the World Robotics 2009 is an absolute must have for anyone involved in any leading role in Robotics. “

Åke Lindqvist, President International Federation of Robotics (IFR), Vice President ABB Robotics, USA

“We have experienced a regressive tendency during the last four quarters. However, we have a long term vision and are interested in the future. We have to make large investments in robotics especially during the current situation. At the AUTOMATICA next year, we will present new innovations, and I feel very positive that the fair will perfectly correspond with the time of market recovery. Medical engineering, aerospace, logistics and service robotics are important future markets. Reducing production costs will become increasingly important in the future and automation is a significant factor toward that step. Moreover, our aim will be further development of service robots so that humans and robots can work together side by side. KUKA has already developed a lightweight construction robot made of carbon fibre laminate. We chose this material since a light robot will dispose of less kinetic energy and will therefore pose less danger to human beings. We will continue the journey we have started, considering the tremendous growth potential for service robots.”

Dr. Andreas Bauer, Chairman IFR Robot Suppliers Group, Director Marketing, KUKA Roboter GmbH, Germany

“Nowadays, service robots are at work cleaning buildings and roads or monitoring public areas, such as museums. Ever more robots are being used to carry out hazardous maintenance and inspection operations in industry, local authorities and the energy sector. Service robots offer the prospect of considerable growth potential in new markets which is impressively documented in the new World Robotics 2009. Home robots, such as vacuum

cleaners, lawnmowers, mobile media terminals and surveillance robots, will evolve from generation to generation in terms of appearance and functionality, opening up a broad commercial market. There will be fluid boundaries between home robots, intelligent home automation and entertainment electronics. Robots will become a facet of our every day life!"

***Martin Hägele, IFR Service Robot Group, Head of Department Robot Systems
Fraunhofer IPA, Stuttgart, Germany***

"Despite a temporary downturn, the robotics industry is poised for a major expansion of its role in the economy and society as a whole. Spurred by strategic investments in R&D in the present, the robotics of the future will add value to all aspects of everyday life from manufacturing to health care and education to entertainment."

Jeff Burnstein, President RIA Robotics Industries Automation, USA

"I firmly believe that by 2015 industrial robots will be everywhere in manufacturing companies - most certainly in the automotive production but also far beyond. They will guarantee sustainable production processes and sustainable products at reasonable costs. With regard to professional service robots, I am convinced that by 2015 we will see many of them in and around companies sweeping, guarding and serving. These new robots will partly be introduced by the industrial robot companies who broaden their scope and partly by new and innovative companies being very attractive employers for young engineers and IT specialists. By 2015 the success story of robotics will have some new and attractive chapters. Let's actively use our networking platforms to write those new chapters!"

Thilo Brodtmann, Managing Director, VDMA Robotics + Automation, Germany

"There Is An Island Of Opportunity In The Middle Of Every Difficulty.

Sales of robot installations have grown immensely over the last ten years. Today, in Europe twice as many industrial robots are installed versus 10 years ago - what a success story! Of course, worsening of the global economy has affected the robotics business. However, the general outlook for the future of the robotics industry is very optimistic. Thanks to new technologies and developments existing products have been improved and new fields of applications have emerged. In the next decade robots will be omnipresent and interact with people at every level and in all aspects of life."

Stefan Müller, Chairman EUnited Robotics, European Robotics Association, Belgium

"I think the statements and comments in World Robotics 2009 are decent and appropriate.

The forecast of 2009 - 2012 is the most difficult part for everybody.

However, recently there have been signs of recovery from the economic crisis.

Although the recovery is slow, we hope that it continues and stimulates investments for the rest of 2009 onward."

Tom Suto, Marketing & Promotion, Kawasaki Enterprises, Japan

"Year 2009 has probably been the worst one in the whole history of industrial robotics. I am sure that, as the expected end to this global economic crisis approaches, at least 3 specific aspects of our industry will be the basis of a sustainable re-growth of the business: an even higher ratio performance / price, the development in the "new" markets (BRIC and not only), new applications generated by more and more widespread competences in robotic technology."

Arturo Baroncelli, Sales & Marketing, Comau Robotics, Italy

"Due to the described crises especially in the Automotive Industry and the related industries we do not see a possibility of a substantial recovery in EUROPE in a short time. On the other hand we already witness recovery starting in the Asian markets. OTC DAIHEN, as a manufacturer of fully integrated welding robot systems, will provide the advantage of systems that need low engineering levels, low planning levels, low interfacing and therefore low costs to the market. This contributes to the international standardization and will benefit small enterprises as well."

Norbert Kleinendonk, General Manager Sales and Marketing Europe, OTC Daihen, Germany

"Due to the fact that the largest user group of industrial robots, car makers (OEM), will not return to high purchase volumes like in the past, with increasing rates of 8 - 10%, the Tier1 and Tier2 segments are also not in the position to invest in new robot technologies. Robot manufacturers are putting more effort into the handling and green power segments, with a wide range of new applications to achieve higher profits."

Klaus M. Paulus, Managing Director Sales, Automotive & Welding Systems, MOTOMAN robotic GmbH, Germany

"Epson believes in a strong recovery of the general robotics and automation market. The need for automation in most areas of the industry will be driven by the changing market expectations. Necessities for higher productivity and the growing miniaturisation of various items require a changed approach to manufacturing processes. Today techniques like mobile phones, navigation systems or other consumer products are in everybody's hands, and underexplored areas have started to catch up already. Automation will support these requirements as it has been doing in the automotive sector since years"

Volker Spanier, Senior Manager Factory Automation, Epson Deutschland