

## 2011 UK robot sales stats reveal strong growth

Following an amazing year of recovery for robotics and automation in 2010, UK robot sales figures for 2011 recently compiled by BARA show clear growth with sales at the end of Q3 already 24% higher than for the whole of 2010. The recent sales comparison survey highlights that although Q3 is the lowest quarter of 2011 so far, it represents the best Q3 results since 2005.

“If the uptake of robotics and automation in 2011 continues at this pace, the year-end total forecast for UK robot sales looks to be the best since 2000,” enthuses BARA Chairman Mike Wilson. “This is a huge turnaround for the UK market and with schemes like BARA’s Automating Manufacturing Programme, which looks set to help manufacturers of all sizes realise the benefits of automation, it is anticipated that the growth will continue - it’s an amazing recovery from the bleak picture of sales declining year on year since 2005,” adds Mike. Significantly, the 2011 figures include major orders from the automotive industry which have not been seen since 2005. Exceptional growth is also taking place in the food/drink industry, up by 205%, and the aerospace industry, up by 67% compared to the same period last year.

“These figures beat the recession blues still seen in many sectors of UK manufacturing,” comments Mike. “Although the UK has some way to go to catch up with the robot sales levels of its European counterparts, these figures are really encouraging and the Automating Manufacturing Programme is expected to increase the number of new users further, providing stimulus for sales as we go into 2012.”

