

## **ABB SET TO INSTALL ALL-SEEING, ALL-THINKING ROBOTS AT MAJOR CAR MANUFACTURER**

### ➤ Robots to detect movement of autoparts on production line

ABB, the global power and automation technology group, announced today its partnership with Vancouver-based software firm, Braintech Inc., to install 'thinking' robots at a major car manufacturer.

The order, for 20 robots at a 'Big three' automaker in Canada, is set to make history as the first robots of their kind to have 'eyes' and 'brains' allowing them to complete tasks faster and more accurately than any autoworker.

Vince Taylor, Braintech's vice president, comments: "Until now the evolution has been: people manufactured cars, then robots manufactured cars, and now, for the first time, robots can see and are involved in manufacturing cars."

The ABB robots, installed with Braintech software, will be able to spot autoparts in 3-D using only one camera, which is a first for manufacturing. For example, consider a pen lying on a desk, if it moves your eyes will tell you to adjust your coordinates before picking the pen up again – the ABB industrial robot, with Braintech software, will do exactly the same thing.

David Marshall, Marketing Manager for ABB's Industries Division says that the order is likely to set a precedent for the future of automotive manufacturing: "In automotive manufacturing, precision is key to running a smooth and cost-effective production line and all manufacturers are looking at ways to reduce human error and costly mistakes. The Braintech software can compare a picture image with a 'perfect' scenario in about 500 milliseconds. Teamed with the inherent accuracy of ABB robots this automotive manufacturer has an extremely powerful and intelligent addition to its workforce."

Installation of the robots will take place in Summer 2002.

**RELEASE ENDS**

### Editor's Note

ABB ([www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)) is a global leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry consumers to improve their performance while lowering their environmental impact. ABB has some 152,000 employees in more than 100 countries.

### ABB Industries Division

ABB Industries division serves the automotive, cement, chemical, distribution, electronics, food and beverage, life sciences, marine, metals, mining, paper, petroleum, printing and telecommunications industries with application-specific power and automation technology. The division has strong domain expertise to create Industrial IT-enabled products and services for its customers in these industries. About 26,000 employees work in the division.

### ABB Automation Technology Products Division

The ABB Automation Technology Products division provides products, systems, software and services for the automation and optimization of discrete, process and batch manufacturing operations plus related business aspects. Key technologies include measurement, control, instrumentation, process analysis, drives and motors, power electronics, robots, and low-voltage products; all geared toward one common industrial IT architecture for real-time automation and information solutions across the business enterprise. These technologies are sold both through third-party channels (OEM's, system integrators, distributors) and through the ABB end-user divisions. It has approximately 43,000 employees.

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