

ABB demonstrates robotic flexibility at PPMA and Interplas 2008

ABB's UK robotics business will be demonstrating its latest generation of picking and packing and force control technology at the PPMA and Interplas Shows (Halls 4 and 5, NEC Birmingham, 30 September to 2nd October).

Stand C34 at PPMA (Hall 5) will feature the new FlexPicker 360, offering improved cycle times of 20 per cent and an increased payload of 50 per cent. For visitors at Interplas, there will be the chance to see how ABB's RobotWare Machining Force Control (FC) technology can deliver improved automated grinding and finishing of castings. The cell will be on display in the foyer adjacent to the entrance to hall 4.

Both products mark part of ABB's continuing drive to help UK industrial companies to realise new levels of productivity and product quality through the adoption of robotic technology.

For packaging applications, the FlexPicker 360 offers the ability to handle heavier objects and accommodate the mass of increasingly sophisticated grippers required in handling diverse products.

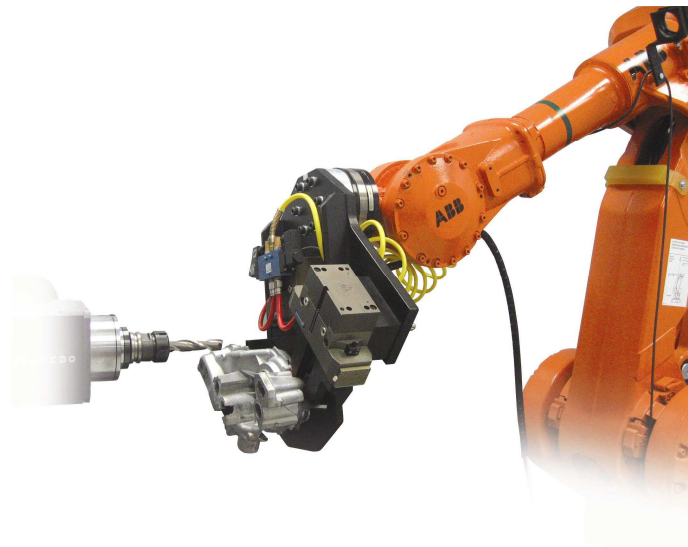


"The new FlexPicker 360 represents our latest offering for picking and packing automated technology. Its stainless-steel parts with wash down capability provide the

maximum in hygiene and washability, whilst the speed and small footprint offers flexibility combined with high cycle times. In short, it saves time, space and money and its industrial design ensures it can meet the needs of the most demanding operations,” says Martin Walder, the newly appointed EAMA chairman and Managing Director of ABB Robotics UK

Complementing the FlexPicker are ABB’s proven PickMaster software and its IRC5 controller. The PickMaster software offers greatly simplified programming, enabling users to model for applications and optimise multiple robot installations. The IRC5 controller is an integral part of the FlexPicker robot. The IRC5 is also now available in a panel-mounted version, offering substantial space savings and easy integration into machines and production lines.

ABB’s *RobotWare Machining Force Control (FC)* technology provides, for the first time, force control in different machining applications where a robot’s sensitivity responds to process forces.



At the heart of RobotWare Machining FC are two advanced software features. The first, *FC Pressure*, lets robots grind, polish or buff products while maintaining a constant pressure between the tool and the work surface. The second software feature, *FC SpeedChange*, enables a robot to debur, deflash or part line surfaces of products at a controlled speed, slowing down when encountering excessive burr. For full functionality, the system requires standard ABB robots fitted with a force sensor; an ABB IRC5

controller housing an interface card linking the sensor to the controller's computer; and cabling between the sensor and the controller.

For more information, please visit www.ppmashow.co.uk or www.interplas-expo.co.uk.

For more information about the potential benefits of integrating robots into your production process visit ABB at the PPMA 2008 exhibition (stand C34, Hall 4). Alternatively, email robotics@gb.abb.com or call 01908 350 300.