

MOTOMAN NEWS RELEASE

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MOTOMAN'S PARENT COMPANY, YASKAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION, BUILDS NEW FACILITY; EXPANDS ROBOT PRODUCTION

Dayton, Ohio — The robotic automation business is good – so good, in fact, that Motoman Inc.'s parent company, Yaskawa Electric Corporation (Yaskawa) in Kitakyushu, Japan, is building a new robot factory to expand its production capabilities. The new 100,000 sq. ft., \$40 million facility, to be located adjacent to Yaskawa's headquarters in the Yahata area of Kitakyushu city, will manufacture medium- to large-size robots used for spot welding, material handling and painting. Start of production is planned for November 2005.

Last year Yaskawa achieved a milestone of 120,000 robot installations worldwide, approximately six months earlier than planned, based on strong market needs for robots from automotive, flat panel display, semi-conductor, food and beverage, and other industries. Yaskawa has been the global leader in production of industrial robots for the past three years, with Motoman robots accounting for an estimated 25 percent of worldwide shipments of industrial robots in 2004 -- up from an estimated 20 percent in 2003.

The new facility will increase production capacity to 2,000 robots/month and will result in a second Motoman Center, where robots make robots. Existing Yaskawa robot production lines will continue to manufacture robots specifically designed for use in arc welding, material handling, material removal, flat panel handling, and semi-conductor handling applications. Yaskawa estimates that the new production lines will help to meet future market demand and reduce existing production lead times.

“Yaskawa is leading the robotic automation industry by example – in 1990 Yaskawa was the first robot manufacturer to use robots to build robots and now is making another major commitment to robotic automation to increase production efficiency and capacity – in the same way that our customers optimize and expand their own production capability using Motoman robots.” said Craig Jennings, President of Motoman Inc.

Mr. Jennings went on to say: “Motoman Inc. (West Carrollton, OH) has nearly 25,000 robots installed in North and South America, had yet another record-breaking year in 2004, and expects similar results in 2005. The new robot production facility in Japan will allow us to continue to reduce delivery lead times to allow our customers to realize return on their investment in robotic automation even faster than ever before.”

For more information on Motoman products and services, visit the corporate web site at www.motoman.com, call 937.847.6200, or write to Motoman Inc., 805 Liberty Lane, West Carrollton, Ohio, USA 45449.

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