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**FANUC Robotics Demonstrates
High-Speed Packing with
M-420iA Intelligent Robot at
Pack Expo 2008**

For Immediate Release

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich., Nov. 8, 2008 – FANUC Robotics America, Inc. will demonstrate the speed and flexibility of its M-420iA packing robot during Pack Expo International at McCormick Place, Nov. 9-13, in booth #N4336.

At the show, the M-420iA robot, equipped with FANUC's *iR*Vision® (built-in), vision package, will demonstrate the advantages of using visual line tracking to pick and pack boxes of candy at high speeds. Visual line tracking provides the flexibility to handle multiple products on the same automation line, eliminating the need for costly fixtures, and reducing changeover time.

"Intelligent robots with vision help maximize flexibility and speed, allowing companies to achieve their production goals," said Jay Strybis, product manager, FANUC Robotics. "Vision significantly reduces the cost of fixturing and collating, and allows customers to quickly change over to a new product. In the last few years, many of our orders have specified vision."

To date, over 4,600 FANUC robots are installed in the food, beverage, pharmaceutical and medical device industries, making FANUC Robotics the leading supplier of picking, packing and palletizing robots. "We also have the industry's most diverse range of system capabilities provided by FANUC Robotics' team of expert system integrators," said Strybis.

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The M-420*iA* is a four-axis, modular construction, electric servo-driven robot with a 40 kg payload and a remote control unit. The M-420*iA* is designed for a variety of high-speed manufacturing applications including picking, packing, palletizing, material handling, machine load/unload and parts transfer. FANUC Robotics also offers the M-421*iA*, a two-axis variant of the M-420*iA*. The waist and wrist axes have been removed, making the M-421*iA* faster and able to handle payloads as high as 50 kg.

Suitable for secondary (packaged) food products, the M-420*iA* is designed to prevent moisture retention to resist bacteria growth and rust. Food grade grease, enclosed cables, and USDA-certifiable parts help reduce maintenance requirements. In addition, the M-420*iA*, is treated with a special epoxy paint for wipe down and low pressure rinse with water and sanitizers.

The M-420*iA* and M-421*iA* offer the fastest motion speeds in their class, which results in reduced cycle time and improved productivity. The demonstration will highlight the robots' high speeds, maximum flexibility, and cell control compared to typical packaging machinery.

The M-420*iA*'s small footprint also allows it to easily replace small end-of-the-line palletizers in high-production changeover industries like pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and medical devices with flexibility unmatched by non-robotic machinery.

The M-420*iA* and M-421*iA* are available with several options that provide intelligence to the robot including PalletPRO™ off-line palletizing simulation software, a plug-in to ROBOGUIDE off-line programming simulation software, 2D and 3D vision sensors, force sensors, line tracking and collision detection.

The [FANUC iRVision](#) system is a ready-to-use robotic vision package, available on all FANUC robots, requiring only a camera and cable – no additional processing hardware. It has a 2D robot guidance tool to accomplish part location, error proofing, and other operations that normally require special sensors or custom fixtures. For robotic vision processes that exceed the capability of 2D vision systems, FANUC Robotics offers an integrated 3D vision system.



FANUC Robotics America, Inc. designs, engineers and manufactures industrial robots and robotic systems for a wide range of applications including arc and spot welding, material handling (machine tending, picking, packing, palletizing), material removal, assembly, paint finishing and dispensing. The company also provides application-specific software, controls, vision products, and complete support services. After 26 years of success, FANUC Robotics maintains its position as the leading robotics company in the Americas. A subsidiary of FANUC LTD in Japan, the company is headquartered in Detroit, and has facilities in Chicago; Los Angeles; Charlotte, N.C.; Cincinnati and Toledo, Ohio; Toronto; Montreal; Aguascalientes, Mexico; and Sao Paulo, Brazil. Over 200,000 FANUC robots are installed worldwide. Contact FANUC Robotics at www.fanucrobotics.com or by calling 1-800-iQ-ROBOT, option 5.

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