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**FANUC Robotics Introduces
New M-2000*i*A Super Heavy-Duty
Robot and ARC Mate Welding
Robots at IMTS 2008**

For Immediate Release

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich., Sept., 8, 2008— FANUC Robotics America Inc. introduced the new M-2000*i*A super heavy-duty robot and ARC Mate welding robots in a fabrication system demonstration during IMTS 2008, at McCormick Place in Chicago, Sept. 8-13, booth #A-8418.

At the show, the new M-2000*i*A/900L super heavy-duty robot positions a tractor frame near an R-2000*i*B/165F robot. The R-2000*i*B, equipped with *i*RVision[®] 3DL picks randomly piled brackets and places them on the tractor frame. Power clamps hold the brackets in place. The M-2000*i*A/900L then positions the tractor frame near two quad-arm ARC Mate robots (four new ARC Mate 120*i*C/10L and four ARC Mate 100*i*C/6L robots) to simulate a coordinated welding sequence to weld the brackets to the frame. Upon completion of the weld cycle, all eleven robots demonstrate envelope or coordination paths. Finally, the R-2000*i*B robot returns the brackets to the pick station and the cycle repeats itself.

M-2000*i*A Super Heavy-Duty Robot

Designed to meet customer requirements for handling truck, tractor, and automotive frames and parts, the M-2000*i*A/900L robot offers a 900 kg payload.

“The M-2000*i*A is the world’s largest and strongest six-axis robot,” said Rich Meyer, product manager, FANUC Robotics. “It has the longest reach and the strongest wrist – surpassing all other six-axis robots available today. The wrist strength sets a record, but more importantly, allows our customers to move large heavy parts a great distance with maximum stability.”

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New M-2000iA and ARC Mate Robots

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The rigid arm design of the M-2000iA/900L has a vertical lifting stroke of 6.2 m for transferring extremely heavy items such as a car body. “We’re excited to provide our customers with this capability. It will help them meet production requirements, and save significant costs associated with conveyors, lifts and other fixed automation,” added Meyer.

A second model in the super heavy-duty robot series, the M-2000iA/1200, offers a 1200 kg payload. The M-2000iA/1200 can support a 1200 kg payload with a 1.25 m offset from the faceplate and full articulated motion at the wrist. The strongest power for all six axes enables a single M-2000iA/1200 robot to handle a super heavy part, which previously required dual robots.

The M-2000iA, like all FANUC robots, operates with the company’s latest R-30iA controller with integrated intelligent functions such as vision and force sensing.

M-2000iA - key features and benefits

- Maximum payload of 1200 kg (M-2000iA/1200) and 900kg (M-2000iA/900L)
- Vertical lifting stroke of 6.2 m (M-2000iA/900L)
- Rigid arm offers stable transferring of heavy payloads
- Strongest wrist in the world handles super heavy products with stability
- Wrist is IP67 protected for operation in harsh environments
- Built-in vision and force sensing
- Reduces costs associated with fixed automation

New ARC Mate 120iC intelligent welding robot

FANUC Robotics’ new ARC Mate 120iC and ARC Mate 120iC/10L are the latest in the popular ARC Mate series of robots featuring a compact design and class-leading reach and load capacity. The new robots combined with the ARC Mate100iC, offer customers the broadest family of welding robots available.

The ARC Mate 120iC robot offers a reach of 1811 mm and a 20 kg payload; the ARC Mate 120iC/10L has a 2009 mm reach and a 10 kg payload.

The new ARC Mate 120iC is the only welding robot with a 20 kg payload and has the largest hollow wrist, offering multiple functions and eliminating cable management issues. Handling and welding can be accomplished without tool changers, and all cables can be enclosed inside the arm, improving reliability and ease of access.

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“Our family of ARC Mate robots offer customers class-leading operation efficiency, reach, speed, load capacity, and enhanced performance for welding parts of all shapes and sizes,” said Mike Sharpe, director of materials joining, FANUC Robotics.

Leveraging off the success of the ARC Mate 100iC series robots, the new ARC Mate 120iC integrates the wire feeder and welding torch cable with the same slim profile including the tightly integrated wire feeder (Lincoln AutoDrive 4R90) within the J3 arm.

The ARC Mate 100iC and ARC Mate 120iC also support a wide range of intelligent functions such as:

- *iR*Vision[®] (built-in) a ready-to-use robotic vision package.
- ROBOGUIDE-WeldPRO simulation package easily models the ARC Mate’s dress-out, and downloads programs to the robot, which run without touch-up.
- Vision Shift eliminates the usual touch-ups and verifications associated with off-line programming or fixture and tool changes.
- Collision Guard detects robot collisions with external objects, minimizing damage to the part, robot, and torch.

“ArcLink XT™, the industry’s first Ethernet-based welding network is another feature that provides a single point of control for both the robot and the welders. It is a flexible and powerful welding network that allows the R-30iA Controller to handle up to four welding power supplies (Lincoln i400),” said Sharpe.

ArcLink XT™, developed in partnership with Lincoln Electric, is the next generation in arc welding network communications offering improved performance over existing welding communication methods. The connection to the welder is over the standard R-30iA Ethernet connection.

R-2000iB Robot

The R-2000iB represents a family of industrial robots, including pedestal and rack mount versions with a variety of payloads and reaches. A slim arm and wrist assembly helps minimize interference with system equipment and allows the robot to operate in small workspaces.

Integrated (built-in) Vision

The FANUC *iR*Vision 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 25 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-*i*Q-ROBOT, option 5.

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