



Sepro Robotique

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PRESS INFORMATION

07 July 2015

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Billion and Sepro Sign Partnership Pact; Offer Molding-Machine/Robot Packages

Billion and Sepro, two French companies that have worked together for many years, have formalized their business partnership in order to increase their presence in new markets by offering a complete equipment package: Billion injection-molding machines with Billion robots manufactured by Sepro.

Billion SAS, well-known manufacturer of plastics injection-molding machines, and Sepro Group, a global leader in robotics for the injection-molding process, are two French companies with a common objective to export. Now, the two have formally agreed to work together to expand into new global markets. The partnership has grown out of a desire by Korbinian Kiesel and Jean-Michel Renaudeau (CEOs of Billion and Sepro, respectively) to strengthen cooperation already active in regions such as France, the United Kingdom, Germany and North Africa, and at plastics trade shows around the world.

Together, the two companies are introducing a complete plastics equipment package, including presses manufactured by Billion and robots made by Sepro, which will be sold under the Billion brand name.

Sepro's proprietary Visual robot-control system will be integrated in Billion's Dixit 3 injection-molding machine control, providing simple, intuitive programming of all machine functions. All robot operations, both inside and outside of the mold space, may be set up and controlled from the Dixit user interface on the molding machine.

"This partnership will allow us to respond to a group of processors who want to optimize their purchasing process," explained Mr. Kiesel of Billion. "More and more, these molders are

(More)

interested in bundling so they can focus their negotiations on a reduced number of suppliers. It also allows us to provide a complete turnkey solution, not only where we are already active, but also in emerging markets and where there is growing interest in automation. This is particularly the case on the African continent.”

Sepro’s Jean-Michel Renaudeau says the new cooperation is part of an overall strategy to provide customers with more choice. “We want to be in a position to equip any injection-molding machine, new or existing, and no matter if the molder wants to buy the robot separately or as part of a complete equipment solution.

ABOUT BILLION

For more than 65 years, the BILLION SAS has been designing plastics injection-molding presses with clamping capacities from 40 to 2650T. A pioneer in the field of multi-material injection since 1961, the company provides solutions and innovative processes that add value for processors in many sectors including, automotive, packaging, medical, cosmetics, electronics, household appliances, leisure, sports, etc. Introduced in 2007, the Select range of electric machines help meet the energy-savings objective of customers. Certified ISO 9001/2008, Billion is the #1 supplier of molding machines in France and a major player in Europe and in Africa. The company exports through subsidiaries in Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Slovakia, Poland and Tunisia, as well as a wide network of international agents and representatives.

ABOUT SEPRO

Sepro Robotique was one of the first companies in the world to develop Cartesian beam robots for injection-molding machines, introducing its first CNC controlled “manipulator” in 1981. Today, Sepro is one of the largest independent sellers of Cartesian robots. Customers around the world are supported by wholly-owned daughter companies in Germany, Spain, Benelux, the United Kingdom, the United States, Mexico, Brazil and China. Numerous direct sales and service offices as well as independent business partners, distributors and service hubs extend Sepro’s global network to over 40 other countries. To date, Sepro has equipped more than 25,000 injection-molding machines worldwide. The company’s global turnover for 2014 was €79.2 million.

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