



Sevro Robotique

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Sevro and Yaskawa Agree to Collaborate on 6-Axis Robots for Larger Molding Machines

Membership in the regional manufacturing innovation group PROXINNOV has resulted in a new alliance between Sevro Group, La Roche sur Yon, and Yaskawa, a Japanese company with offices in Nantes. Sevro will sell large 6-axis articulated-arm robots manufactured by Yaskawa as part of Sevro's full line of robots used in plastics injection molding.

Xavier Lucas, Président of Yaskawa France and Manfred Stern, General Director and President of Yaskawa Europe, which is located in Eschborn in Germany, visited La Roche sur Yon in early March to join Jean-Michel Renaudeau, CEO of Sevro Group, in signing the partnership agreement.

The robots will be sold under the Sevro-Yaskawa brand name as part of the Sevro 6X Visual product line, which also includes 6-axis robots manufactured in cooperation with Stäubli. That relationship will continue, with Sevro selling Stäubli robots for applications on molding machines with up to 800 tons of clamping capacity and four bigger Yaskawa units for machines up to 5000 tons. The simple and intuitive Sevro Visual controls, specially developed for plastics injection molding, are used to control the 6-axis robots. This is the same control platform used on the entire range of Sevro robots. Sevro is currently working on electronics concepts for the future in cooperation with Carnegie Mellon University in the U.S.A. Results from that collaboration are expected in 2017.

The Sevro-Yaskawa agreement grew out of the two companies' membership in PROXINNOV, an innovation forum serving companies in the Pays de la Loire region in western France. Its mission is to raise awareness of industrial robotics as a means to improve efficiency of manufacturing, and to encourage collaboration between its members. Sevro CEO Jean-Michel Renaudeau is the current President of PROXINNOV.

Sevro is a world leader in the development and manufacture of robots for injection molding and manufactures its own 3- and 5-axis Cartesian beam robots. In addition to agreements

with the 6-axis robot manufacturers, Sevro is in partnership with injection-molding-machine manufacturers, including Sumitomo Demag, for the distribution of its robots under those manufacturers' brands. These collaborations have largely contributed to three successive years of record turnover. In 2015, turnover amounted to 92.8 million euros, an increase of 17% compared to 2014, with more than 2,300 robots sold.

“Some people might ask how a relatively small, independent French company could achieve such results,” observes Jean-Michel Renaudeau. “The answer is that we did it by multiplying our own capabilities through partnerships with other companies who want to change the robotic automation market. Our involvement in PROXINNOV, which has resulted in this new partnership with Yaskawa, is typical. By being open to collaboration, Sevro has been able to make big things happen in a short period of time.”

For his part, Xavier Lucas emphasizes that “for Yaskawa to partner with a leading global supplier of Cartesian robots is very exciting. We share with Sevro a vision of quality of products and quality of service. The geographical proximity of our two companies, combined with global support that Yaskawa can bring through its 78 subsidiaries, has also facilitated collaboration. In the coming years, we hope to strengthen that partnership and extend it to other activities.”

ABOUT SEVRO

Sevro 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, Sevro Group is one of the largest independent sellers of Cartesian robots. Customers around the world are supported by wholly-owned daughter companies and sales and service offices in Germany, Spain, Benelux, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, China and now Austria Hungary. Numerous independent business partners, distributors and service hubs extend Sevro’s global network to over 50 other countries. To date, Sevro has equipped more than 30,000 injection-molding machines worldwide.

ABOUT YASKAWA

Since 1915, Yaskawa Electric has served the world needs for robotics, motion control and system engineering. More than 330,000 Yaskawa robots are installed around the world in applications that not only include injection molding, but also welding, packaging, assembly, coating, cutting and material handling. Other products include servo drives and motors, AC drives and motors, linear motion, controllers, and network control.

See photo on next page...



Pictured after signing the partnership agreement are (from right): Manfred Stern, General Director and President of Yaskawa Europe, who is shaking hands with Jean-Michel Renaudeau, CEO of Sepro Group, Xavier Lucas President of Yaskawa France, and Jocelyn Lucas, Director of PROXINNOV. To download a high-resolution file, click to:
<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/51716465/Sepro/Sepro-Yaskawa2.jpg>