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## PRESS INFORMATION

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# **Sepro Positions Itself for Growth in Mexico, Offering Molders 'Free Choice' in Robots**

***At Expo Plasticos 2014 in Guadalajara, Sepro México is exhibiting on Stand 913 along with its new distributor Axiomatek and has three robots on display... two on the Sepro stand and one at Haitian (Stands 742/712). After several years of rapid technical development and record sales in 2013, the French robot manufacturer is promising more innovation in 2014 along with intensified cooperation with injection-molding machine manufacturers.***

The two robots operating on the Sepro/Axiomatek stand include an example of the 3-axis-servo Success range of general-purpose robots. The Success 11, which is sized for molding machines up to 200T, is operating on an Arburg electric Allrounder 320A. It is molding a cover that mates with a bowl that is being produced at the Arburg stand (# 800). Success robots are designed to bring the speed and precision of full-servo operation to simpler applications.

One of Sepro's newest innovations, the 5-axis 5X-25 is also on display, demonstrating its capabilities for complex part manipulation with an Audi automobile grill panel. The 5X Line is based on Sepro 3-axis Cartesian beam robots with a 2-axis Stäubli servo wrist added to provide additional compact servo rotations. The 5X-25 is designed for use on IMMs up to 500T.

(More)

On the stand of Haitian (China Plastic Machinery S.A. de C.V.), Sepro is displaying one of its largest robots, the SR 4050, which is intended for applications on molding machines from 800 to 2000 tons. It will be demonstrating "simple pick & place" functionality that allows the user to program a basic automation sequence simply by answering a series of questions on the Visual 2 control pendant.

#### MORE INNOVATION TO COME

"Over the last five years," Renaudeau said, "we have invested heavily in the development of new robot technology, expanding our presence in key global markets like Mexico, and building strong partnerships with automation specialists and injection-molding machine manufacturers. We expect to launch more new products this year and will be cooperating with machinery OEMs at global trade shows Expo Plasticos and private technical events. We intend to offer our customers the most complete range of automation equipment for plastics injection molding so that no matter where they are located, no matter what their operating parameters are, Sepro has options that can meet their needs. That is what we call 'Your Free Choice in Robots' and we think that is why more and more companies are choosing Sepro robots every year."

The Sepro product line includes not only 3-axis servo robots, for both general-purpose pick-and-place and technologically advanced applications, but also 5- and 6-axis servo robot solutions, sprue pickers and in-mold-labeling (IML) systems. All are driven from a single easy-to-use control platform developed by Sepro especially for injection molders.

- **S5 Line and G4 high-performance 3-axis robots.** The S5 Line is Sepro's 5<sup>th</sup> generation servo-driven beam robots and they feature longer strokes and larger payload capacities than previous generations, so even small robots can offer significant application flexibility. Three models – the S5-15 for molding machines from 30 to 180 tons, the S5-25 for machines from 120 to 450 tons, and the S5-35 for presses up to 800 tons – are available for complex operations inside or outside the mold space. Completing the 3-axis offering are the Generation IV (G4) robots with models to automate molding machines from up to 5000 tons. Sepro's own Visual 2 controls are standard on all these linear Cartesian robots, while the more advanced Visual 3 controls are optional.
- **Success general-purpose servo-driven robots.** Now includes five robot models for injection-molding machines from 20 to over 1000 tons of clamp. The Success range of robots benefit from the S-Platform technology that was perfected on the high-performance S5 Line, so they are faster and able to handle bigger, heavier parts than many similar robots. Thus, they become truly affordable robots with enhanced capabilities, with all of the quality and reliability for which Sepro is well-known. Touch 2 controls are standard on the Success range and Visual 2 controls are available as an option.

- **5-Axis & 6-Axis Robots.** Two lines of multi-axis robots – the 5X Line and 6X Visual – have been developed by Sepro Robotique in partnership with Stäubli Robotics specifically for injection-molding applications. Designed for applications requiring complex part manipulation, the 5-axis 5X Line, represented on the Sepro stand at Expo Plasticos by the model 5X-25, can be easily adapted to challenging applications like insert placing, complex extraction paths in the mold, path tracking for flame treatment, and the like. The 6X Visual line of robots combines a Stäubli 6-axis articulated-arm robot with easy-to-use Sepro Visual 3 control to deliver an automation solution specifically for injection molding. Five models are available to serve injection-molding machines from 20 to 4000 tons.
- **In-Mold Labeling.** To deliver innovative high-speed in-mold labeling (IML) solutions to plastic molders serving the packaging industry, Sepro Robotique recently formed a partnership with Machines Pagès, a specialist in IML systems for 25 years. Sepro has demonstrated these capabilities in IML cells built around a Sepro side-entry robot and modular label-handling units supplied by Machines. Sepro is offering IML systems for molding machines from 100 to 500 tons, applying flat or shaped labels to such parts as lids, buckets and trays.
- **Sprue Pickers.** Sepro S3 servo-driven sprue pickers offers new levels of performance and productivity in the most basic robot applications on molding machines from 30 to 200 tons. Compared to standard pneumatically driven sprue pickers, the S3 servo unit is faster – operating at 2 m/sec speeds on the vertical axis. It is also more accurate and repeatable, more reliable and requires less maintenance. The horizontal arm rotates up 100° from the centerline of the molding machine so that sprues or parts can be dropped beside the fixed platen. The vertical arm has a maximum stroke of 1000 mm (39 in.) and can handle a maximum payload (end-of-arm tooling and parts) of 1 kg (2.2 lb). In addition to conventional sprue removal applications, the S3 picker can be used for simple part removal thanks to easy pick-and-place programming via the standard Touch 2 control system.
- **Powerful Controls.** The 5- and 6-axis robots and the high-speed side-entry IML systems benefit from the application of the Visual 3 robot control, Sepro's newest, fastest and most powerful control. Like the Visual 2 controls, standard on S5 Line robots, and Touch 2 controls on the Success range, Visual 3 has a user interface with large, easy-to-read and -navigate 10-inch touch-sensitive LCD screen that makes operation simple and intuitive. A joystick allows operators to actually steer the robot to fine-tune its movements. Visual 3 can control up to 16 servo-driven axes simultaneously and its PLC processor has a scan speed of 20 msec (up from 100-msec) so it can handle even the most complex operations. The control is also able to work with intelligent sensors, providing the option to manage cameras, recognize RFID tags, and more. Another function allows for "path tracking," which programs the robot to move a part through a complex pattern outside of the mold, or for complex in-mold motions if required for part-removal.

## ABOUT SEPRO

Founded in 1973 and now headquartered in La Roche-sur-Yon (France), 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. The company's global turnover for 2013 was €66.5 million, with 90% of sales exported from France and 45% sold outside of Europe. Sepro is the largest robot supplier to the automotive industry in Europe and North America, and has equipped more than 25,000 injection-molding machines worldwide.

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CEO, Sepro Robotique*  
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u/51716465/JeanMichelRenaudeau  
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