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ABB FURTHER EXTENDS ROBOTIC ARCWELDING SYSTEMS RANGE

ABB, the global power and automation technology group and leader in robot-based automation, is building on the market success of its popular FlexArc robotic welding system range by introducing the new easy-to-use FlexArc®500C.

The FlexArc®500C is designed to accommodate larger workpieces which can be welded in a fixed position. The system includes the 'all new' Orbit 500C weld positioner which operates on the 'dual station' principle, allowing the robot to weld whilst operators are loading/unloading or tack welding parts. Clear access to the loading position has been incorporated into the design of FlexArc®500C system to ensure easy handling of heavy or unwieldy workpieces into the system.

FlexArc®500C has a capacity of up to 500kg (including fixture) on both sides of the positioner. This makes it ideal for components such as parts for off-road vehicles, larger frameworks or welding brackets to larger frames.

The modular design of the FlexArc®500C system allows for the inclusion of a number of 'value adding' additional options such as extended base plate, roller shutter safety doors, light guards, automatic torch service station and fume extraction.

In addition to extending its FlexArc range, ABB has also introduced two new elements to its modular range of welding systems. The Robot Rotating Tower (RRT) and the Robot Travelling Column (RTC) are designed to give high

productivity and product quality, great flexibility, short installation time and coordinated motions for easy programming.

These new solutions have been developed from ABB's existing Modular Arc Welding Systems range of products and enable manufacturers of larger workpiece objects to take advantage of well proven components integrated into a complete robotic welding production station. The RRT and RTC can also be combined with ABB's range of Orbit welding positioners allowing all external axes to be coordinated with the robot axes giving excellent path following and accuracy while simplifying programming.

ABB's David Marshall expects the new additions to the range to be very popular: "More UK manufacturers are turning to automated welding to keep their costs down and their quality and output up. This extension to our range provides more choice to ensure that no compromise is made when designing the system that best suits our customers needs."

Both the FlexArc®500C and the tailored modular options of RRT and RTC, have been designed in response to customer feedback and are the latest offering in a complete line of standard and modular arc welding cell configurations available from ABB. When backed-up with ABB's professional maintenance programmes they will optimise productivity for UK metal fabricators and enable them to quickly achieve competitive advantage.

Find it on the web

ABB has also made it easy for customers to find the perfect welding cell for their needs. A specially designed tool at <http://angurboda.eyescream.se/flexarc/> will quickly configure a suitable cell. Just type in the information about the material to be welded, the type of workpiece and the need of workpiece manipulation and you'll be presented the most appropriate cell. It really is as simple as 'abc'.

RELEASE ENDS

Editor's Note

ABB (www.abb.com) is a global leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry consumers to improve their performance while lowering their environmental impact. ABB has some 155,000 employees in more than 100 countries.

ABB Manufacturing and Consumer Industries Division

The ABB Manufacturing and Consumer Industries division sells products, solutions and services to improve customer productivity and competitiveness in areas like automotive industries, telecom, product manufacturing, electronics, airports, parcel and cargo distribution, public and commercial buildings. It also provides air handling solutions for industrial and environmental processes. The division employs approximately 32,000 people.

ABB Automation Technology Products Division

The ABB Automation Technology Products division provides products, systems, software and services for the automation and optimization of discrete, process and batch manufacturing operations plus related business aspects. Key technologies include measurement, control, instrumentation, process analysis, drives and motors, power electronics, robots, and low-voltage products; all geared toward one common industrial IT architecture for real-time automation and information solutions across the business enterprise. These technologies are sold both through third-party channels (OEM's, system integrators, distributors) and through the ABB end-user divisions. It has approximately 43,000 employees.

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