



Kawasaki Robot e-News is an electronic bimonthly newsletter that provides our customers with useful information on robotics.

Newly Elected Chairman of Japan Robot Association



The Japan Robot Association held its ordinary general meeting on May 22nd, 2012 (Tuesday). At this meeting, an election was held to select the new chairman to succeed Mr. Yoshiharu Inaba, the president of FANUC Corporation, who had reached the end of his term. We are happy to announce that the representative director and senior executive vice president of our company, Mr. Mitsutoshi Takao, was selected as the new chairman.

Mr. Takao will hold office for 2 years, serving from May 2012 to May 2014. Following his election, Mr. Takao expressed his resolve to lead the association into the future: "The Japanese robot industry has grown together with our customers that have production sites in Japan. Currently, the robot market is rapidly expanding in China, Korea, and in Taiwan, with robot manufacturers in these countries growing stronger and are emerging as new competitors. I will endeavor to find the best way to build up the Japanese robot industry and help the Japanese manufacturing industry regain its competitive edge in the international market."

New Bldg. for Clean Robot Development

We currently hold the top market share in the global clean robot business for semiconductor manufacturers. Our aim is to become the undisputed manufacturing leader in the business, commanding more than 50% of the share by the year 2020.

As we move to achieve this goal, the number of new product development projects has rapidly grown in both number and size. In order to accommodate these projects and dramatically boost our development capacity, we recently built a new building (#26M) for clean robot development at the Akashi Plant.

This new building is a three-story reinforced concrete structure, with a total floor area of 1,000 m² and a class 10,000* clean room.

We have concentrated all of the development areas into this new building and are accelerating the pace of new product development, making full use of the facilities this building offers.

The relocation to the new building has made space available for other uses. We plan to use this free space to expand the production area. In addition, we will also exhaustively review the production system and work to increase the production capacity of clean robots.

* A cleanliness class for clean rooms, as defined by US Federal Standard 209E. The maximum permissible number of particles per ft³ is 10,000, with the maximum diameter of each dirt and dust particle being no more than 0.5μ.



KJ Series: New Painting Robot



We recently released the KJ series, our new line of explosion-proof painting robots. The KJ Series further elevates the superb performance of the existing "KF Series" and "KG Series". These explosion-proof painting robots cannot only be used to paint the bodies and parts of automobiles, but are also capable of handling a variety of painting processes in other general industries.

Our existing range of painting robots features a number of different types, such as a floor mount type, a wall mount type, and a shelf mount type with special six-axis arms that can be adapted to different installation conditions. The robots in the KJ Series employ a common-platform-type arm, which enable these robots to be installed in practically any location by merely adjusting the base. In addition to the six-axis "KJ264", we also created the seven-axis "KJ314", which has an extra axis on the base. The availability of both six-axis and seven-axis robots helps to expand the range of applications of this series.

The arm of the KJ Series is both lighter and thinner than existing models. The cabling is also housed within the body of the robot, allowing for multiple

robots to be installed close together. This makes it possible to shorten the length and the width of the painting booth, as well as reduce the strength of the booth, thereby achieving a dramatic reduction in both the initial costs of manufacturing machines and running maintenance costs.