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

New Product RS05L

Kawasaki recently launched a new general-purpose handling robot, the RS05L (photo right). This new robot features a maximum payload capacity of 5 kg and is ideally suited for handling small workpieces. Many of our customers have been asking for a compact and fast handling robot with a payload capacity between that of the RS03N (3 kg payload) and the RS6N (6 kg payload), so to meet the needs of our customers we developed the RS05L to fill the gap between these two models. We presented this new robot last November at iREX 2009 (International Robot Exhibition) in Tokyo, and are now ready to begin shipping.

In addition to the RS05L, two more new models will soon be available: the RS05N, a compact handling robot with a 5 kg payload that is even more compact than the RS05L, and the RD80N, a palletizing robot with an 80 kg payload.

Useful Software (OPC Server)

Kawasaki is preparing to release a software library named “OPC Server.” This software is designed to support Kawasaki robot users when they develop software for monitoring data from the robot controller. The OPC Server is fully bilingual (English and Japanese) and can be used not only for the latest E controller, but also for the older C, D, and D+ controllers.

OPC (OLE for Process Control) is a technology that helps engineers create applications for monitoring and reporting by providing a standard interface that is compatible with various devices from different vendors. In order to develop software for monitoring the positional data of a Kawasaki robot, engineers are normally required to know the controller’s communication protocol and have good programming skills for working with the OS. The OPC Server eliminates the need for this knowledge because it does not rely on a specific programming language and environment, thereby enabling engineers to quickly develop process-control software that is universal.

Application Video Library v2.0

Kawasaki has just released a new Application Video Library version 2.0 (AVL 2.0). The AVL is a PC database that contains over 200 different robot applications. This video library is a useful tool for Kawasaki salespeople and engineers, allowing them to demonstrate actual robot applications. However, because the AVL contains Kawasaki’s original know-how, it is not to be freely distributed. If you are interested in the AVL, please feel free to contact one of our Kawasaki representatives. We believe it will help you to better visualize and plan your own automation projects.

Overseas Subsidiary (North America)

This year Kawasaki Robotics (USA), Inc. celebrates its 20th anniversary. The head office in Wixom, Michigan mainly produces general-purpose robots, while the San Jose office in California supplies clean robots (including robots for solar panels). The company provides after-sales service from its seven offices (including offices in Canada and Mexico) for approximately the 25,000 Kawasaki robots in North America. Over 100 local staff members sell robots and robot systems, and provide engineering and after-sales services to support customers’ production. The photos show the Wixom head office (upper right), and robots in the workshop ready to be shipped (lower right). (website: www.kawasakirobotics.com/)

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