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PRESS INFORMATION

June 22, 2009

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Joystick and 10-inch Screen Make it Easier to Use New Visual 2 Robot Control from Sepro America; Plastics Automation Solutions Debut at NPE 2009

The latest robot controller from Sepro America, LLC, the Visual 2, brings together several digital technologies to create a powerful, yet easy-to-use interface to Sepro Generation IV robots. At its core is a high-speed PLC, featuring scan rates as fast as 100 milliseconds. A large, easy-to-read and -navigate 10-inch touch-sensitive LCD screen makes operation simple and intuitive, while giving users access to full system documentation. A joystick allows operators to actually steer the robot to fine-tune its movements. Almost unlimited connectivity means users can upload and download information via Ethernet, USB connection or even Wi-Fi.

The Visual 2 is being shown for the first time in North America at NPE 2009, the International Plastics Showplace being held June 22 – 2



Model SR4050 and
Visual 2 Control

(More)

in Chicago's McCormick Place. The new controller will be on display in Booth #S46031 along with a Model 4050-S5 Generation IV beam robot. A similar microprocessor-based control, called the Touch 2, is being introduced along with new sizes of the cost-effective Axxess Series servo-driven robots. The build-it-yourself Kit end-of-arm tooling system, Sepro SR Series sprue pickers and the simple, low-cost BE Series beam robots round out the Company's exhibit.

"People who know video games will find the new Visual 2 very familiar," explains Jim Healy, Vice President Sales & Marketing. "Big, bold, intuitive graphics, the joystick and fast response times – all make this system really easy-to-use. And those who demand a controller that allows them to program and manage complex automation routines will discover the Visual 2 has everything they could want and then some."

PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

With the Visual 2 controller, it is possible to drive up to 16 axes. Like all Sepro controllers, it offers users several different options for setting up a robot program. The Simple Pick & Place module allows users to create a robot program just by answering a few basic questions posed by the system. The results are presented immediately in three-dimensional video. EPS (Embedded Program Source) programming uses freely programmable templates and on-screen prompts that lead the operator through the process of 'teaching' all relevant robot positions. Direct Programming of even the most complex routines can be completed on the Visual 2 pendant or off-line. Programming can be uploaded to the control via Ethernet, Wi-Fi or USB connection.

With the optional Automation Pack, standard 100ms PLC function is increased to 20ms to facilitate the most advanced automation including stacking, insert positioning and loading, fabric overmolding, in-mold labeling, post-mold fixturing and finishing, and more. It can even manage intelligent peripheral equipment including vision, bar coding and RFID devices. A PC editor/monitor function, which works in a familiar Windows® environment, makes it easy to fine-tune complex programs.

The large display screen and onboard memory makes it possible to consult all documentation and the user's manual from the pendant at any time. If a fault occurs, troubleshooting data is displayed automatically and the notepad function allows information to be passed easily from one team or shift to another.

Many functions and options developed on the original Visual control have been retained. Programs developed in the earlier system are compatible with Visual 2 via the PC editor. Optional digital vacuum setting, which allows users to fine-tune and store vacuum flow

settings on the control pendant is available. Automatic initialization makes start-up faster by moving all robot axes to their proper starting positions with the push of a single button. Eco Mode – also a one-button function – automatically slows robot movements outside the mold areas to save energy and reduce wear and tear on the system.

The Visual 2 controller is standard equipment on the advanced Sepro Generation IV (G4) Cartesian (beam) robots, which suit applications ranging from simple unloading to more complex automation involving peripheral equipment. Represented at NPE 2009 by the Model SR 4050 S5, the G4 robot line has many popular mechanical features like self-cleaning, self-lubricating guide rails and the Sepro-exclusive Y-free capability. This function provides for the programmed release of the strip-axis motor, allowing free movement of the robot arm and load-free ejector tracking.

The SR 4050 S5 is one of the largest of six G4 models designed to fit molding machines from 20 to 3500 tons. The S5 designation indicates its five-axis functionality – the standard X, Y and Z axes, plus optional servo-driven R1 and R2 wrist rotations, which make it easier to unload parts from complex molds and simplify post-mold positioning and secondary operations. The 4050 has a standard horizontal stroke of 118 inches (3000 mm), a vertical stroke of 94 inches (2400 mm) and a strip stroke of 51 inches (1300 mm). Traverse speeds as high as 9.8 ft/sec (3 m/sec) are possible and the maximum standard payload is 77 lbs (35 kg). The robot on display at NPE features “extended reach” on the vertical stroke, increasing that to 102 inches (2600 mm). Processors can also get extended reach on the strip stroke to 59 inches (1500 mm), and payloads can be increased to 121 lbs (55 kg).

NEW TOUCH 2 CONTROL AND AXESS ROBOTS

Many of the Visual 2 features and capabilities – including the joystick, 10-inch screen with documentation, simple pick-and-place programming, and more – are also available on the Touch 2 controller, which is standard equipment with the new, affordable Axess robots. The Axess Range is a line of 3-axis servo-driven Sepro robots that offer high-performance capabilities at a price below most other 3-axis servo-driven beam robots.

New configurations of the robots include a new Axess 7 – targeted at injection-molding machines of between 20 and 80 tons – and new versions of larger Axess units – the Axess 11, 22 and 33 for molding machines to 700 tons – that now give molders up to 33% greater vertical reach. For instance, the new Axess 33 has a standard vertical stroke of 63 inches (1600mm), with 70 inches (1800mm) available. Telescoping arms, which are ideal for low-ceiling applications, are also available on both the Axess 22 and 33. Maximum payload can

range from 6.6 lbs (3kg) on the Axess 7 to 33 lbs (15 kg) on the Axess 33. Instantaneous vertical speeds of up to 8.9 ft/sec (2.7 m/sec) are possible.

In addition to the new Touch 2 controls, the Axess Range offers other attractive standard features normally available only on more expensive robots. These include:

- Simultaneous motion on all three axes;
- Sevro-exclusive 'Y-free' function, which provides for the programmed release of the strip-axis motor, allowing free movement of the robot arm and load-free ejector tracking;
- Multiple vacuum and pressure circuits to allow degating, selective part placement and other functions;
- Quick disconnects for fast changeovers;
- Optional pneumatic R2 wrist rotation (parallel to the demolding axis) allows three positions during the cycle – 0°, 90° and 180°.

OTHER AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS

Besides the Generation IV robots with Visual 2 controls, and the Axess range with Touch 2 controls, Sevro is also exhibiting:

- Sevro SR Series Sprue Pickers for molding machines from 20 to 450 tons with takeout times as quick as 0.6 sec and overall cycle times as short as 3 sec. The standard configuration includes Sevro controls that make it easy to program virtually any sequence of picker movements and store up to 20 such programs for later recall.
- BE Series low-cost beam robots for machines up to 550 tons are designed for those part-removal and pick-and-place applications where a sprue picker could normally do the job, but where greater flexibility of part release position is required. Vertical and kick strokes are pneumatically powered, and the horizontal axis features AC electric drive. The BE Series robots offer many features found on larger, more sophisticated units including multiple programmable drop locations and standard 90° wrist rotation or optional R2 (90° or 180°) rotation.
- Kit Tooling – A simple system of standard base mounting plates, pneumatic and electrical connections, support flanges and a wide range of grippers, grabbers, sprue cutters and suction devices that make it easy for molders to build their own end-of-arm tooling.

Sevro America, LLC, provides robots, sprue pickers, end-of-arm tooling and automation systems for injection-molding machines from 20 to 5000 tons throughout the United States and Canada. Its North American headquarters facility in Pittsburgh, PA, supports customers with sales, engineering, assembly and testing, training and service. Sevro America is a wholly

owned daughter company of Sevro Robotique, La Roche sur Yon, France. One of the first companies in the world to develop Cartesian beam robots for injection-molding machines, Sevro today is the global #1 supplier of robots for injection-molding machines 800 tons and larger. In all, there are 3000 Sevro robots installed in the United States and over 16,000 running worldwide. www.sevroamerica.com