

ABB introduces the FlexTrainer™, a fully operational, pre-engineered cell specifically designed for robotic training

Cell is initially available in arc welding, material handling and vision models

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (November 16, 2009) – ABB Robotics, a leading supplier of industrial robots, has developed the FlexTrainer™, a portable, pre-engineered robotic cell specifically designed for robotic training purposes. The FlexTrainer is a fully equipped and operational cell initially available in three advanced manufacturing models: arc welding, material handling and vision guidance. The arc welding FlexTrainer will be on display at the ABB exhibit (Booth # North 32047) at FABTECH 2009, November 15-18 at McCormick Place in Chicago. With a small footprint, wheels and folding wings, the FlexTrainer fits through standard doorways and can be easily moved. Suitable for training on the plant floor, in a classroom or even in a hotel conference room, the new training cell is ideal for companies with a large installed base of robots and/or a need to frequently train operators, and for technical training at universities, trade schools and workforce development organizations.

“As the economy continues to improve the FlexTrainer will be an important tool in training additional operators for the expanding installation base of industrial robots we expect to see across a variety of industries,” said Joe Campbell, vice president of sales and marketing, ABB Robotics, North America. “We have had numerous requests for a tool like this from a wide range of both industrial and educational organizations.”

The basic features of the FlexTrainer include:

- An IRB 140 robot equipped with an IRC 5 panel mount controller
- A standard operator pushbutton panel
- Transparent guarding for easy viewing and programming
- RobotStudio online, allowing the cell to be programmed on a personal computer

Additionally, the specific application models include:

- **Arc welding:** a robotic welding torch and welding power supply



- **Material handling:** a robotic gripper and teaching blocks
- **Vision:** ABB's proprietary TrueView™ robotic vision guidance system

A three day Flex Trainer "Train the Trainer" class is included with each cell, providing programming and operational instruction and an overview of the main system components.

The FlexTrainer is also available in a virtual computer format that features identical replicas of the individual cells.

About ABB, Inc.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in approximately 100 countries and employs about 120,000 people.

About ABB Robotics

ABB Robotics (www.abb.com/robotics) is a leading supplier of industrial robots – also providing robot software, peripheral equipment, modular manufacturing cells and service for tasks such as welding, handling, assembly, painting and finishing, picking, packing, palletizing and machine tending. Key markets include automotive, plastics, metal fabrication, foundry, electronics, pharmaceutical and food and beverage industries. A strong customer focus helps manufacturers improve productivity, product quality and worker safety. ABB has installed more than 160,000 robots worldwide.

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