

Software from ABB solves machining problems

The new RobotStudio Machining PowerPac optimizes automated machining.

Västerås, Sweden, September 19 2008, ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, today announced the launch of the software RobotStudio Machining PowerPac. Designed to ensure easy robot programming, the RobotStudio Machining PowerPac is key to optimizing the potential of automated machining.

RobotStudio uses an exact copy of the real software that runs robots in production, so realistic simulations can be performed, using real robot programs and configuration files identical to those used on the shopfloor. Time and risks are reduced by programming robots offline, in addition to more accurate paths being created.

Using the Fluent user interface from Microsoft Office 2007, the RobotStudio Machining PowerPac features an intuitive wizard to guide users in creating targets and paths from surfaces and edges quickly, easily and accurately. Pre-defined path generation patterns are provided to support all possible machining types.

All process settings such as tool width, overlap rate, machining angles, etc., can be defined in different pages of the wizard and used to generate the targets and paths. In the last wizard page, a preview is provided to show how the paths look like before they can be finally created.

The Power Pac includes three machining templates as default: NormalProcess, FC (Force Control) PressureProcess and FC SpeedChangeProcess. All of the parameters in the templates can be customized and re-used among different cases.

Because the Machining PowerPac supports force controlled processes, it works seamlessly with ABB's software for force controlled machining, RobotWare Machining FC, and the program generated in Machining PowerPac can be imported into and recognized by RobotWare Machining FC.

About ABB:

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 around 100 countries and employs about 115,000 people.

About ABB Robotics Division:

ABB 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, machine tools, pharmaceutical and food and beverage industries. A strong solutions focus helps manufacturers improve productivity, product quality and worker safety. ABB has installed more than 160,000 robots worldwide.

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