

NEWS RELEASE

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WITTMANN Group expands its market leadership in Europe and North America

2017 has been a highly successful year for the WITTMANN Group's robot business. The result could hardly have been more positive: the company's robot segment reached a new record in sales.



***Novelties in the field of automation:
PRIMUS 16 and PRIMUS 14 for pick-and-place applications,
newly designed A-C-servo axis, W853 pro robot
(from top left to bottom right).***

Even though the production capacities at the robot manufacturing plants in Mosonmagyaróvár (Hungary) and at the Austrian headquarters in Vienna were extended substantially during the last two years, these capacities were fully utilized throughout the year 2017, due to the high demand. A total of 5,000 robots were shipped from the four existing robot plants of the WITTMANN Group in Europe, China and the USA.

Parallel to the increased demand for standard robots, the demand for automation solutions has also grown. Designed and manufactured at the local WITTMANN production plants – and using the shortest possible communication channels – all

solutions are invariably tailored to fit the needs of the local users in the best possible way. A necessity, which also justifies the extensions of the production facilities in Nuremberg, Germany and in Písek, Czech Republic, which are currently still under way, and which will provide additional capacities for automation and gripper systems. The extension of the automation segment in the USA was already completed in 2016 and ran to full capacity in the following year. Moreover, the automation department of the WITTMANN Group's Indian subsidiary was also extended last year.

This past year has also brought about numerous innovations on the product side. For example, two new appliances were introduced in the **PRIMUS** robot series, i.e. **PRIMUS 14** and **PRIMUS 16**. These new robot models have been optimized for standard pick-and-place applications and recommend themselves by their excellent price-performance ratio. Another new model is the **W853 pro** robot. With its 45 kg payload, it takes up the position between the **W843 pro** with 35 kg and the **W863 pro** with 75 kg payload. Its innovative rotating servo axes come with an even more compact design, thus minimizing the mold opening stroke to achieve even shorter parts removal times. With the **R9** robot control system, which offers numerous new functions, a very special new development has been launched. This control system stands out by its integrated digital robot twin functionality, which is available as standard. This is an identical digital image (or simulation) of the physical robot. It enables virtual validation of a given programmed process at any time – without any risks for the actual processing machine or the robot. And although the display screen of the new **R9 TeachBox** has now been enlarged to a diagonal of 10.1", its weight has been reduced by 150 g compared to the predecessor model, which improves ergonomics and contributes to fatigue-free work.

In the New Year 2018, WITTMANN will again demonstrate its innovative strength with a number of new products and features in the area of robots and automation systems.

The WITTMANN Group is a worldwide leader in the manufacturing of injection molding machines, robots and peripheral equipment for the plastics industry. Headquartered in Vienna/Austria, the WITTMANN Group consists of two main divisions, WITTMANN BATTENFELD and WITTMANN, which operate 8 production facilities in 5 countries, including 33 direct subsidiary offices located in all major plastics markets around the world.

WITTMANN BATTENFELD focuses on the independent market growth in the manufacturing of state-of-the-art injection molding machines and process technology, providing a modern and comprehensive range of machinery in a modular design that meets the actual and future requirements of the plastic injection molding market. WITTMANN's product range includes robots and automation systems, material handling systems, dryers, gravimetric and volumetric blenders, granulators, mold temperature controllers and chillers. With this comprehensive range of peripheral

equipment, WITTMANN can provide plastics processors with solutions that cover all production requirements, ranging from autonomous work cells to integrated plant-wide systems.

The syndication of the WITTMANN Group has led to connectivity between all product lines, providing the advantage plastics processors have been looking for in terms of a seamless integration of injection molding machines, automation and auxiliary equipment – all occurring at a progressive rate.

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