

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Extension of the PRIMUS robot series from WITTMANN**

More than a year has passed since WITTMANN presented the first model of the **PRIMUS** robot series. The market launch of the **PRIMUS 16** robot with a handling capacity of 5 kg was the starting point for this range of equipment, designed especially for pick & place applications. After six months the series was then extended with the introduction of **PRIMUS 14**, featuring a lower load capacity and useable on injection molding machines with clamping forces ranging from 50 to 150 t. Now, in the middle of 2018, the WITTMANN Group is pleased to present the new robot models **PRIMUS 10**, **PRIMUS 26** and **PRIMUS 26T**.



**WITTMANN PRIMUS 10 (left), PRIMUS 26**

**PRIMUS 10** extends the **PRIMUS** series once more with a smaller model: The robot is specially designed for removing sprues and comes with sprue pincers as standard. The sensors integrated in these pincers ensure reliable feedback in order to signal whether the sprue pin has been securely gripped, and this removes the possibility of sprues being left behind in the mold area.

The conception of this robot is modeled strongly on its “bigger brother” **PRIMUS 14**. This means the **PRIMUS 10** is fitted with an extremely powerful drive system with an output of 400 W. The movements are transmitted via racks and belts, which – in conjunction with the dual linear guide systems of the horizontal axes – enable cycle times of below four seconds.

The compact dimensions of the **PRIMUS 10** equip it for operation inside the safety enclosure of an injection molding machine. This reduces the costs incurred for the safety enclosure – and also ensures CE-compliant operation. If there is a change in production needs, the robot can integrate a vacuum circuit in order to carry out parts removal as well as sprue picking.

**PRIMUS 16**, the largest model of the series so far, immediately met with a very positive response from injection molding customers. The **PRIMUS 26** and **PRIMUS 26T** robots extend the range even further.

These are the first models in the **PRIMUS** series able to operate on injection molding machines with clamping forces of up to 400 t, and also the first **PRIMUS** robots with a moveable demolding axis. WITTMANN has been using this technology for decades to offer users maximum flexibility in gripper design. Thanks to decentralized positioning on the vertical Y-axis, the total height of the appliance has been minimized, and the robot is thus also ideally suited to perform moving and handling tasks inside the mold. In this way, it also becomes possible to implement 2-component applications inside the injection molding machine and at low cost without using a rotary table.

With its 10 kg load capacity, **PRIMUS 26** offers the possibility to control even more complex grippers, and in addition to the highest load capacity among the **PRIMUS** models, it also has the greatest variety of strokes. The horizontal axis is available with a maximum stroke length of 6,000 mm. This makes applications with parts depositing behind the clamping unit of an injection molding machine possible. The maximum demolding stroke is 800 mm. Vertically, strokes of up to 1,400 mm can be realized, with the vertical stroke being performed via a single axis in **PRIMUS 26**, and via a telescopic axis in **PRIMUS 26T**. The horizontal axes are identical for both models.

To be ready for major tasks, the robots come with up to four vacuum circuits, which are normally controlled by the WITTMANN **iVac** system, with all relevant parameter settings being controlled via the handheld **TeachBox** terminal. This offers the advantage that vacuum settings can be linked to the program and saved together with it. In case of a program change, there is also no need to enter the interior of the production cell to adjust the settings – which is unavoidable when digital vacuum switches are used.

Like the first appliances of this series brought to market, these models are also controlled by the special **PRIMUS** version of the WITTMANN **R8 TeachBox**. The retention of the **R8** programming and operating logic contributes decisively to shortening the introductory training periods and to accelerating familiarization. The standard version of the **R8** control system can also be chosen as an alternative to the **PRIMUS** version.

“The **PRIMUS** series of robots has been extraordinarily positive for us”, says Martin Stammhammer, International Sales Manager for Robots and Automation Systems of the WITTMANN Group. “We have learned that the demand for pick & place solutions still exists even in high-tech markets. This has motivated us to drive the development of this series even further. Since WITTMANN was able to draw on existing systems for the extension of the **PRIMUS** robot series, we are very pleased to launch these new models in the summer of 2018.”

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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 34 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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