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Development of ACS-C System for Automotive Component-related Equipment

Hirata Corporation has developed the ACS-C (Assembly Cell System for Components), a production system for automotive component-related equipment. The system will be exhibited at MOTTEK 2008, an international assembly and handling technology trade fair to be held in Germany.

Hirata Corporation manufactures and sells a variety of production systems for automotive, FPDs (Flat Panel Displays), semiconductors, and consumer electronics. In the automotive segment, we have earned a high degree of trust and positive reviews from customers, especially for engine assembly equipment based on our ACS (Assembly Cell System) concept.

We have capitalized on our ideas and know-how in the engine assembly equipment field to develop the ACS-C. We will exhibit this product at MOTTEK 2008, the international assembly and handling technology trade fair to be held in Stuttgart, Germany.

1. Product Features

Based on the ACS concept, standardized stations incorporate Process-Fit, our cutting-edge, multi-axis assembly robot, to achieve high-speed, high-precision component assembly performance.

To ensure easy operability, the system allows movement commands and data collection to be performed from the operation screen, and is extremely user-friendly despite its sophisticated capabilities.

High-Speed, High-Precision Operation

The Process-Fit robot delivers high-speed, high precision assembly to achieve high-quality results and high productivity. The optional Vision System ensures production with even higher precision by using a camera to correct the alignment of items as they are conveyed.

Flexible Specs

The system is easily adjusted to respond to fluctuations in production volume, and can respond flexibly to high-mix production changeover.

Energy-Efficient, Space-Efficient Design

Robot movement is optimized to suit production tact time. Unnecessary movement has been eliminated, and the system's environmental footprint has also been reduced thanks to the elimination of compressed air components that would ordinarily require a compressor. At the same time, the system maintains a small footprint that saves on space.

Improved Usability

Sophisticated, yet easy-to-use. System operation has been re-designed with the user in mind.

If trouble occurs, video footage of the event can be replayed, making it easy to work out the cause of the problem.

Operation screen language can be set to English, German, or Japanese. Other languages are optionally available.

Usage limits and current number of uses for consumables used in the system are displayed on the screen. The Replacement Manual can also be displayed on the screen, making operation manuals unnecessary.

2. Product Appearance



3. Impact on Financial Results

The ACS-C is expected to contribute to the improvement of financial results for the next fiscal year (FY09/10) by increasing sales of automotive production facilities.

- **ACS concept and ACS-C**

The ACS concept refers to an assembly line system based on standardized modules. In contrast to conventional production lines, where each production process required dedicated equipment, the ACS concept uses standardized, multi-functional equipment throughout the line. This allows highly-versatile, efficient line design and offers superior performance in terms of cost-efficiency, space-efficiency, easy maintenance, and flexibility with regard to product changeover. The ACS concept can be applied to all production equipment, but at present we are concentrating mainly on its applications in automotive production facilities operations. It has already been adopted by large automakers both in Japan and the US, who have given it positive reviews.

ACS-C is an adaptation of the ACS concept to component assembly, a field in which we intend to pursue aggressive sales strategies.

- **MOTEK 2008**

An international trade fair for assembly and handling technology to be held in Stuttgart, Germany.

Exhibits: The latest cutting-edge technology and products from the production automation, robotic systems, and electrical equipment fields, and other areas.

Dates: September 22 - 25, 2008

Venue: Landesmesse Stuttgart GmbH Messeplazza 70629 Stuttgart, Germany