FANUC celebrates 40 years of ROBOSHOT injection moulding efficiency

FANUC is marking the 40th anniversary of its high-performance all-electric ROBOSHOT injection moulding machine with a celebration of its sustainability, reliability and low total cost of ownership (TCO) credentials. First developed in Japan in 1984, the FANUC ROBOSHOT is widely used by plastics manufacturers around the world to automate their injection moulding processes. It has evolved over the past four decades to meet the ever-changing needs of end-users, with today's models boasting AI capabilities as standard. Super energy efficient, its advanced servo technology and intelligent energy recovery systems also mean the ROBOSHOT consumes up to 70% less energy than its hydraulic counterparts, and 5-10% less than other electric machines.

AI-enabled features showcased at FAKUMA

At the recent FAKUMA 2024 exhibition in Germany (Oct 15-19), FANUC showcased the versatility of the ROBOSHOT range with a series of live demonstration. These included:

- A fully automated production cell processing sustainable biopolymers, longitudinally mounted on an additional linear axis to minimise footprint. Comprising a ROBOSHOT a-S150*i*B with a clamping force of 150 tonnes and an LR-10*i*A compact 6-axis robot, it highlighted how moulding shops can significantly increase their output.
- A showcase of the AI functions of the latest A-*i*B series ROBOSHOT. The injection unit includes AI metering that uses torque (rather than speed) control to compensate for changes in material viscosity, such as drying conditions and variations in regrind. In addition, AI mould and ejector protection avoids mould damage and costly repairs/downtime should an event occur during the opening and closing cycle. It even indicates when greasing is necessary or if the mould is showing signs of wear. The same technology also protects the ejector's forward and reverse movement.
- The ROBOSHOT a-S100*i*B, presented together with the SEPRO Success 11 robot. Demonstrating the flexibility and versatility of FANUC's injection moulding solutions, it enables precise and fast handling of plastic parts with seamless integration of third-party robots.

Industry-beating TCO

Long renowned for having the industry's lowest TCO, all ROBOSHOT machines feature a power consumption screen as standard. This includes an energy analysis page to identify where energy consumption takes place during the cycle, to aid optimisation. Further features contributing to low TCO include high reliability and machine uptime, along with low wear, simple mechanisms with fewer components, and high spare part availability. All of this adds up to an average cost of just **€555 a year** (parts and service) to run a ROBOSHOT machine.

"It's clear to see why the ROBOSHOT has remained so popular with injection moulding customers for four decades," says Andy Armstrong, FANUC UK's Vice Managing Director and Head of ROBOSHOT European Sales. "Superior precision and extremely short cycles mean it is capable of producing large quantities of

consistently high-quality parts, with unbeatably low energy consumption. Its reliability and energy efficiency are enhanced with the latest AI technology, ensuring the ROBOSHOT can continue to help manufacturers produce the highest quality goods at the lowest total cost of ownership."

See the ROBOSHOT in action at FANUC UK's Open House (12-14 Nov 2024, Coventry). As part of a system developed by FANUC partner Hi-Tech Automation, the ROBOSHOT will be manufacturing sustainable cutlery sets to be used during the event's free lunch sessions – register your place here: https://ukopenhouse.fanuc.eu

NOTES FOR EDITORS

IMAGES & CAPTIONS

Image 1

Forty years since it was first developed, the latest ROBOSHOT consumes up to 70% less energy than its hydraulic counterparts, and 5-10% less than other electric machines.



About FANUC

The FANUC Corporation is one of the worldwide leaders in factory automation for CNC control systems, robots and production machinery (ROBODRILL, ROBOCUT and ROBOSHOT). Since 1956, FANUC is the pioneer in the development of numerically controlled machines in the automation industry. With 271 FANUC locations worldwide and more than 8,000 employees, FANUC offers a dense network in sales, technical support, research & development, logistics and customer service.

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