FANUC delivers shot in the arm for UK's medtech sector

By Andy Armstrong, Vice Managing Director for FANUC UK and Head of ROBOSHOT European Sales

Ireland is home to a buoyant medical sector. Home to 14 of the top 15 medtech companies in the world, it is an attractive country for tech investment. While the UK may not yet be a match for Ireland on the international stage, the UK medical sector is an extremely important marketplace for FANUC. We are proud of our 40-year history of introducing and supplying all-electric injection moulding machines to the sector, setting the standard for the high quality, reliable and energy efficient production of medical devices.

Meeting cleanroom standards

One of the key priorities for medtech manufacturers is adherence to cleanroom standards. An area which can be overlooked in this regard is the risk associated with hydraulic injection moulding machines. Whenever a mould change takes place, there is a chance of contamination occurring, meaning the environment has to be thoroughly cleaned. But even after this, particulates can escape from hydraulic machines, for example through seals. This is not the case with all-electric versions, such as the FANUC ROBOSHOT. It is therefore critical to ensure you're not just purchasing the right machine for your process, but also for your environment.

Stability and precision

Another priority for manufacturers is stability – in order for a process to be validated and certified, it needs to be consistently stable. With its superior stability and repeatability properties, the ROBOSHOT excels in this area. Being able to maintain key parameters with repeatable precision gives confidence to a medical device manufacturer that their parts are being produced to a high standard in a consistent manner.

This is also relevant when moving moulds from one machine to another. Ideally, a mould would be left in the machine to reduce the risk of destabilising any of the key parameters required for validation. But in a busy production facility with multiple machines running, this isn't always possible. The ROBOSHOT uses the latest electric servo technology with up-to-date machine calibration. This means that when moving moulds – whether across a factory floor or from country to country – the process will remain consistent.

Energy efficient

The medical devices sector here in the UK is strong and stable. Covid gave it an adrenaline boost, but it has remained buoyant since. It is mostly dominated by large multinational companies and as such, it can be difficult for firms to break into their supply chain. One factor in this is stringent carbon targets which must be met not just by the multinationals themselves, but by every company that they deal with throughout their supply chain. All-electric injection moulding machines use up to 70% less energy than their traditional hydraulic counterparts, largely due to the higher base load (energy consumed when the machine is idling, such as during cooling phases). However, FANUC's ROBOSHOT goes further, consuming 10-15% less energy than other all-electric machines. For any manufacturer of medical devices looking to cut their energy costs, improve their

sustainability credentials, or break into the supply chain of a multinational, the superior energy performance of the ROBOSHOT should not be overlooked.

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Images/Captions

Image 1

The ROBOSHOT gives confidence to medical device manufacturers that their parts are being produced to a high standard in a consistent manner.



Image 2

For any manufacturer of medical devices looking to cut their energy costs, improve their sustainability credentials, or break into the supply chain of a multinational, the superior energy performance of the ROBOSHOT should not be overlooked



Image 3

Andy Armstrong, Vice Managing Director for FANUC UK and Head of ROBOSHOT European Sales



About FANUC

The FANUC Corporation is a global leader in industrial automation, supplying CNC control systems, robots, cobots, and production machinery (ROBODRILL, ROBOCUT and ROBOSHOT) to factories around the world. Since 1955, FANUC has made a significant contribution to the efficiency and productivity of manufacturing companies worldwide. Operating in more than 270 locations globally and serving more than 100 countries with over 9,000 employees, FANUC offers a dense network in sales, technical support, research & development, logistics and customer service.

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