Siemens and KUKA announce cooperation

- Siemens and KUKA to advance integrated production processes with intensified cooperation
- Joint solutions offered: integrated, operator-friendly loading of machine tools using robots
- Integration of robotics and machine tool solutions for machining workpieces with robots
- Development of new applications in lightweight construction

The Siemens Drive Technologies Division and KUKA Roboter GmbH have announced a comprehensive cooperation at EMO in Hanover. The central pillar of the cooperation is integration of KUKA robots and Siemens machine tool solutions (CNC) for loading machine tools. “With this joint approach, the two companies are strengthening the fundamental idea of integrated production and can, for example, develop new markets by close intermeshing of machine tool tasks and loading tasks,” says Manfred Gundel, CEO of KUKA Roboter GmbH. “The CNC control from Siemens and the robot controls from KUKA are ideal for integrating robot and CNC technology. With this cooperation, we are deepening our many years of cooperation and advancing intelligent automation solutions as outlined by the Industry 4.0 project for the benefit of both partners and to expand business,” says Dr. Robert Neuhauser, CEO of Business Unit Motion Control Systems at Siemens.
Highly flexible and fully automated production today demands complete integration of robots into the production flow and into the automation environment. In this area, in particular, applications for robots and machine tools are growing together steadily as a result of new requirements and technological progress. Given these developments, Siemens and KUKA are strengthening their cooperation in automation and industrial robots. The aim is to be better able to serve industries with high-end automation requirements in loading and machining. With the shared development, customers will have access to new products and solutions that are coordinated optimally over their entire life cycle, from design, to production simulation, to engineering and the production shop level. Moreover, the two companies have agreed on including future aspects of robot automation with reference to the Industry 4.0 project into their joint activities.

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The Siemens Industry Sector (Erlangen, Germany) is the world’s leading supplier of innovative and environmentally friendly products and solutions for industrial customers. With end-to-end automation technology and industrial software, solid vertical-market expertise, and technology-based services, the Sector enhances its customers’ productivity, efficiency, and flexibility. With a global workforce of more than 100,000 employees, the Industry Sector comprises the Divisions Industry Automation, Drive Technologies and Customer Services as well as the Business Unit Metals Technologies. For more information, visit http://www.siemens.com/industry.

KUKA Aktiengesellschaft is an international global enterprise with sales of about € 1.7 billion and about 7,500 employees worldwide at the present time. The company focuses on robot-supported automation for industrial manufacturing processes and is one of the world’s leading suppliers of robotics, plant engineering and plant assembly services. KUKA’s business model is based on two business units: the Systems division, which designs and builds automated systems and the Robotics division, which supplies industrial robots, the core component of automated systems. The holding company and its two divisions are headquartered in Augsburg. More than forty-five companies operating internationally target the automotive and general industry markets.