

Robots benefit the US industry: 261,000 new jobs created in automotive sector alone (video + graphic)

Frankfurt, Chicago, April 25th, 2017 – **The US automotive industry has installed a new record of approximately 17,500 industrial robots in 2016. In the last seven years, the operational stock increased by about 52,000 units (2010-2016). These are preliminary results published by the Statistical Department of the International Federation of Robotics (IFR). During the same period, the number of jobs in the US automotive sector rose by 260,600 - according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.**

“The main driving force of this growth is the ongoing trend to automate production in order to strengthen the competitiveness of American industry globally, to keep manufacturing at home, and in some cases bring back manufacturing that had previously been outsourced to other countries,” said Joe Gemma, President of the International Federation of Robotics at the World Robotics IFR CEO Roundtable in Chicago.

Amazon creates new jobs

“The key message is the optimism about jobs in the future – especially with technology”, said Jon Battles, Amazon Director, WW Engineering Advanced Technologies. “We are so proud of announcing that we are going to create a hundred thousand new fulltime and full benefit jobs in the United States. These jobs are all across the country. I want to make a really critical point: We are doing this level of hiring after installing 45,000 Amazon robotic systems in our fulfillment centers. I don’t have any better success story to give than that and we a hiring in every job class and level.”

Small businesses automate or vaporate

Prof. Dr. Howie Choset of the Advanced Robotics Manufacturing Institute (ARM) emphasized the importance of automation with robots for small companies. 98.5 percent of all the manufacturing companies in the US have 500 or fewer employees. “These small companies – this is their phrase not mine – automate or vaporate. They know if they don’t embrace automation they will not be around in the future.”

“As a small business we experience every day where our customer base will move something for pennies,” said Craig Hertig, Director of Engineering, Engineered Machine Products. “Automation is a very usable tool, it’s very flexible. It gives you the opportunity to be competitive in a global market.” As an example of how automation made the difference, Michael P. Jacobs, President of Applied Manufacturing Technologies AMT said: “I was at a friend’s plant just outside Detroit with stamping machines. That particular plant is not very large – he has got to have 30 to 40 robots there in automation. The plant had been shuttered in 2007 and he bought it in 2010. He now has over 200 employees in his plant because of automation. It is very doable by small companies.”

Education is key to reap the benefits of robotics

“We have about 8 million baby boomers exiting the workforce over the next five to ten years,” said Amazon’s Jon Battles. “It turns out the baby boomers are the most industrial trained part of the US workforce. We are heading towards a gap and I hope we all internalize the importance of inspiring this young generation coming up, retraining the people we have, giving them a great vision for careers in the future and following through on that. I am very optimistic about the future and the jobs and the technology. As long as we embrace it and train for it correctly we have an awesome future.”

The IFR strongly supports the idea that education and training systems must be adapted to enable current and future workers to reap the benefits of robotics. This task falls to both public and private sectors and requires strong cooperation between the two.

Statements on video

Please find the statements on video from the IFR CEO Roundtable experts in Chicago here: <http://bit.ly/1GD61tT>

Graphics for download

Please find the IFR graphics for download [here](#):

New IFR data overview

Please find below an overview of the new IFR preliminary data about industrial robots in the US, worldwide and in China:

USA – new peak in 2016

- Approximately 31,500 industrial robots installed in the **US manufacturing industry** – all sectors (+15% more than 2015)
- Approximately 17,500 industrial robots installed in the **US automotive industry** (+43% more than 2015)
- **US automotive industry** is the main driver for automation - robot sales in 2016 reached an all-time high
- **US automotive industry** - operational stock increased from 74,900 to about 127,000 units in seven years = CAGR 2010-2016: +9%
- **US automotive industry - employment** rose from 679,500 to 940,100 in seven years = CAGR 2010-2016: +6%

Worldwide – new peak in 2016

- Approximately 290,000 industrial robots installed **worldwide** (+14% more than 2015)
- **Outlook 2017-2019**: estimated worldwide supply of industrial robots will rise from 322,000 to 414,000 (+12% on average per year)

China – new peak in 2016

- Approximately 90,000 industrial robots installed in **China** (+31% more than 2015)

United States Department of Labor - Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): <https://www.bls.gov>

About the IFR - The International Federation of Robotics: www.ifr.org

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