

Press Release

Robot demonstrations and innovative solutions in the fields of industrial automation and drive technology on the Yaskawa Electric and Motoman stand.

Frankfurt, 21 February 2008

With the slogan 'Yaskawa ahead of the time', Yaskawa Electric and its subsidiary Motoman are exhibiting innovative automation and robotics solutions at the 2008 Hannover Trade Fair. New servo control and inverter products plus exciting live demonstrations are on view in the Japan Pavilion in Hall 17, Stand C24.

The Yaskawa exhibits include amazing feats performed by robots. A special attraction on the Yaskawa stand features four robots playing traditional Japanese drums, so-called 'taiko' drums. While two DA20 dual-arm robots with 13 axes and two HP3L robots with six axes beat the drums, an additional dual-arm robot plays the cymbals. The principal challenge for the engineers and programmers at Yaskawa was to endow the robots with a sensitive 'human' touch as they play these traditional instruments, as well as to make the humanoid and engaging robots interact.

Enabling robots to adopt human behaviour was also the idea behind the second robot installation. They are able to use their arms to make interactive, virtually human movements. Motoman is demonstrating another attraction – the single-arm IA20 robot with seven axes performing the traditional Japanese lion dance, the ‘Shishi-mai’. Traditionally, at the beginning of the year the masked lion goes from house to house to wish everyone luck and a happy new year. This revolutionary new development in robotics looks fascinating as a dancer with an enormous carved wooden lion’s head and mask, and a long sheet of cloth for a body. With its compact structure, it is capable of considerable freedom of movement in the most confined of spaces.

The new J1000 series of inverters is being exhibited for the first time at the Trade Fair. As well as saving energy, this range of products is exceptionally compact, as well as being easy to install and control.

Also introduced in 2007, the V1000 series of inverters is on show as an interesting, energy-saving demonstration model. The latest inverter technology is represented by

the Matrix-Converter, which features a regenerative energy function.

Yaskawa is showing the Sigma-5 servo package, introduced in 2007, for servo control applications. This unit comprises servo motors, servo amplifiers and a high-performance commissioning tool in the form of impressive demonstration models.

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About Yaskawa:

Yaskawa is a world-leading manufacturer of servo motors, amplifiers, inverters machine controllers and robots. The company was founded on the concept of quality. For over 90 years this philosophy has allowed Yaskawa to remain at the forefront of motion control technologies, which have helped to drive the automation of industries such as mining, steel machine tools, automotive, packaging and semiconductors. As the world's largest manufacturer of AC inverters, servo motors and drives and machine controllers, the company's exhaustive research and development investment has resulted in many original inventions and innovations. This technological leadership has helped to modernize industries such as mining, steel, cement, pulp and paper, chemical, automotive, packaging, machine tool and semiconductors.

Furthermore, with about 18,000 sold industrial robots in 2006, Yaskawa is the largest manufacturer of robots worldwide and has also an international leading position in the business segment of shielded arc-welding as well as in servo technology.



Taiko drum robot installation (2 DA20 robots and 2 HP3L robots)



Taiko drum robot installation | Shishimai robot