

Mitsubishi Electric

INVESTS IN AKRIBIS SYSTEMS

Mitsubishi Electric Corporation has taken an equity stake in Akribis Systems Pte Ltd (Akribis), a Singapore-based manufacturer of linear servo motors and linear stages, to strengthen its industrial automation solutions for the global market. Mitsubishi Electric, by integrating its servo systems and other industrial automation products with Akribis' product lineup, aims to meet increasing needs for high specification, high precision manufacturing

Due to the miniaturization and high functionality of smartphones and the accelerated adoption of electric vehicles, linear servo motors and linear stages are increasingly in demand. Used in equipment for manufacturing semiconductors, flat-panel displays, lithium-ion batteries, etc. they achieve increased productivity and precision. This aligns with Mitsubishi Electric's servo systems which have been widely adopted in various production facilities around the world due to the company's conclusive industrial automation product lineup.



Mitsubishi Electric, through its investment in Akribis, which has a high share of the global market for linear servo motors and linear stages, aims to accelerate its advancement of e-F@ctory and strengthen its total industrial automation solutions by combining its own servo systems and other industrial automation products with Akribis' wide product lineup and flexible customization abilities. (eu3a.mitsubishielectric.com/fa)

Bosch Rexroth

APPOINTS DR. HEINER LANG TO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dr. Heiner Lang will join the executive board of Bosch Rexroth AG, Lohr a. Main, Germany. Once on the board, he will take over responsibility for engineering, which currently lies with Rolf Najork, chairman of the executive board of Bosch Rexroth AG and member of the board of management of Robert Bosch GmbH, responsible for the industrial technology business sector.



In his new role, Lang will also be responsible for the three Bosch Rexroth business units which constitute the factory automation division (automation and electrification solutions, assembly technology, linear motion technology). In addition, he will retain his role as general president of the automation and electrification solutions business unit.

By expanding the executive board, Bosch Rexroth is responding to the increasing importance of the factory automation business area as well as focusing on topics of the future, in terms of software-based, automated and connected solutions. "Bolstering our cross-divisional capacity for innovation is truly on Bosch Rexroth's agenda, and we are making that clear right now by strengthening the board with the appointment of Heiner Lang," emphasized Najork.

Along with his other responsibilities, having Lang appointed to the executive board will strengthen Bosch Rexroth's position in making the Factory of the Future a true reality.

Lang became general president of the automation and electrification solutions business unit at Bosch Rexroth in July 2017. This business unit boasts a wide range of drive and control technologies for factory automation and provides Industry 4.0 solutions for the Factory of the Future. Before this new role, Lang started his career at Bosch Rexroth as the head of technology for the industrial applications business unit in January 2017. Prior to that, he was president of Europe and Asia at MAG IAS GmbH. Lang studied mechanical engineering and obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Karlsruhe. (www.boschrexroth-us.com)

Bonfiglioli & Schaeffler

COLLABORATE ON WIND TURBINE GEAR DRIVES

A compact Industry 4.0 solution package for wind turbine azimuth drives is the result of a long-term development partnership between Bonfiglioli and Schaeffler. Schaeffler Torque Sense and SmartCheck sensors record torque, speed, vibration and temperature information. These data are transmitted through a gateway, combined and processed



using algorithms, developed by Bonfiglioli and based on the more than 60 years know-how in gear motors and dedicated specifically for the application. Subsequently, the data will be made available for the users on the Bonfiglioli Cloud platform. The Bonfiglioli Dashboard provides a clear overview

of the collected information for the operator. Maintenance measures can be carried out in a load-oriented manner and the unplanned downtimes of the system can be minimized, and operating costs can even be more than halved.

On the Bonfiglioli dashboard, the operator can carry out a continuous control of the state of the geared motor based on the data situation; even an estimation of the remaining service life of the drive takes place. Abnormal behavior of the azimuth drive is reported as naturally as critical conditions. On this basis, the maintenance intervals can be optimized to the actual needs and necessary repairs can be made at favorable times. At the same time, the control of the drives can be optimized, whereby overloading can be avoided. Valuable result is the drastic reduction of unplanned downtime or vice versa, the significant increase in the profitability of a plant. (www.bonfiglioli.com)

Continental

HOSE PLANT CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Continental's Norfolk, Nebraska hose plant, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

"We are proud to share in this 40th anniversary celebration of a very valuable and productive facility," said Jim Hill, ContiTech CEO for the North America Region. "This plant has made hydraulic and industrial hose for applications all over the world, and we are confident that it will continue that process into the future."

The plant was built and began business operations in 1979. Stan Patzel was the facility's first plant manager. "Stan is retired now and lives in the Lincoln area, but he and the early pioneers of our plant still remain in touch with us," said Dan Granatowicz, current plant manager. Today, the 282,000 sq. ft. plant rests on 100 acres about 115 miles northwest of Omaha and 120 miles north of Lincoln, the state capital which is the home of another Continental plant.

"Our facility has been a strong contributor to the Continental family of hose," said Granatowicz. "This is due in great part to an exceptional workforce and we look forward to at least another 40 years of successful operations."

The facility produces more than 70 million feet of hose a year and has produced more than 2.5 billion feet of hose in its 40-year existence. The Norfolk plant manufactures hydraulic and industrial hose for a variety of industrial applications including a wide variety of fuel dispensing, freon charging, mine spray and general purpose hose.

"The Norfolk plant is part of an organization that enables us to strategically position ourselves to provide dynamic growth for all of the hose markets in which we compete in the North America region," said Hill. "We will continue to grow our customer network and provide the seamless distribution of our products with our focus on North America." (www.continental-industry.com)

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