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**FANUC Robotics Showcases
LR Mate 200iC/5F Food Robot
and USDA-Accepted M-430iA Robot
in High-Speed Food Picking
Demonstration at Pack Expo 2009**

For Immediate Release

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich., Oct. 5, 2009 – FANUC Robotics America, Inc. will demonstrate high-speed picking with its LR Mate 200iC/5F food robot, and M-430iA high-speed, USDA-accepted intelligent picking robot equipped with *iRVision*[®] (built-in), PickTool software, and the ROBOGUIDE/PickPRO simulation package at the 2009 Pack Expo Las Vegas Show held at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, NV Oct. 5-7, booth #C4200.

At the show, two M-430iA robots equipped with FANUC's *iRVision* visual line tracking software will pick randomly oriented prime rib slices from an infeed conveyor using Applied Robotics' USDA-accepted gripper, and work together to progressively fill four-part trays on an outfeed conveyor. Together, the M-430iA robots will pick and place product at high speeds. *iRVision* error proofing is used "on-the-fly" to determine that each piece of meat meets the standard size requirements. An LR Mate 200iC/5F food robot, positioned downstream on the outfeed conveyor, re-circulates the products by picking four at once with a multi-pick gripper and placing them back on the infeed conveyor.

LR Mate 200iC/5F Food Robot

The LR Mate 200iC/5F food robot is the latest member of FANUC Robotics' family of lightweight, compact mini-robots, offering 'best in class' wrist load capacity, repeatability, work envelope, and speed.

The intelligent LR Mate 200iC series of mini robots is designed to handle products in a wide range of industries and working environments including food, medical device, pharmaceutical, plastics, cleanroom manufacturing and machine shops.

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High-speed food picking

“The LR Mate 200*i*C/5F food robot is extremely flexible and can adapt to small lot sizes, new styles and other modifications, providing customers an affordable and versatile solution,” said Rich Meyer, program manager, FANUC Robotics America, Inc.

Slim and lightweight, the LR Mate 200*i*C/5F food robot can be mounted in a variety of positions including floor, tabletop, inside machines, angle and invert, which helps customers challenged with small and narrow workspaces.

The LR Mate 200*i*C/5F food robot offers a variety of benefits, including:

- A clean design with no food particle retention areas to resist bacteria growth and rust
- A special coating to handle sanitizer wipe-down and low-pressure rinsing
- Ability to work with primary (unpackaged) or secondary (packaged) food products
- Manufactured with food-grade grease
- IP67 rating for the entire robot means the robot is waterproof and allows it to withstand harsh environments
- Five-axis design is 50% faster than previous mini-food robot
- Easily handles up to 5kg payload

M-430*i*A Food Robot

The M-430*i*A high-speed, food picking robot is the first and only robot to meet the hygiene requirements for meat and poultry processing, and receive equipment acceptance from the United States Department of Agriculture.

“We’re extremely proud that the M-430*i*A is built in accordance with the USDA, AMS hygiene requirements for the materials, design, and fabrication of equipment used in the preparation and packaging of food products,” said Meyer. “The M-430*i*A robot has met or exceeded the USDA, AMS criteria as published in the NSF/ANSI/3-A 14159-1 2002 specifications, passed inspection, and earned the right to bear the USDA, AMS Meat and Poultry Accepted Equipment logo.”

Designed specifically for food washdown environments, the M-430*i*A food robot is capable of picking primary food and packaged products at speeds up to 120 cycles per minute on a continuous basis while using visual line tracking. In addition, the compact robot can be mounted in a variety of positions including floor, wall or invert, which maximizes flexibility for tight workspaces.

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“The M-430*i*A is the ideal solution in terms of speed and flexibility, and now the USDA acceptance allows us to help a greater number of food customers meet today’s high quality/cleanliness standards,” added Meyer.

The M-430*i*A food robot offers a wide range of benefits, including:

- A clean design with no food particle retention areas to resist bacteria growth and rust.
- Hollow arm to avoid air line and electric cable exposure
- Capable of working with primary (unpackaged) and secondary (packaged) food products.
- Manufactured with food-grade grease, and USDA-accepted parts
- Can be mounted upright, inverted or angled
- Designed to withstand plant “washdown” operations with caustic food industry cleaners and acids.
- IP67 rating for the entire robot allows it to withstand the rinsing process after the caustic washdown.
- Materials used in product contact areas are in accordance with the applicable FDA requirements as stated in 21 CFR, parts 174-189.

“The five-axis M-430*i*A sets a new speed record for articulated robots of 120 cycles per minute at a 1 kg payload, and 100 cycles per minute at a 4 kg payload,” added Meyer.

In addition to food, the M-430*i*A intelligent robot is ideal for handling beverages, medical devices, cosmetics, household products, solar panels, office supplies, and many other consumer products.

Intelligent Software and Sensors

FANUC Robotics’ PickTool software is designed to simplify setup of high-speed multi-robot picking systems. PickTool divides incoming product so that each robot in the system picks an equal number of products. It can also assign a specific percentage of products for each robot to pick.

“If more than one type of product is on the conveyor, the programmer simply assigns a percentage value and a part ID to distribute each robot’s picking assignments,” said Meyer.

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In addition, PickTool allows each robot to pick from a certain section of the conveyor. For example, it can assign half of the robots to pick from one side of the conveyor, and the other half of the robots to pick from the opposite side.

Other key benefits of PickTool include:

- Pick and/or skip any number of selected products
- Progressively fill trays or cases as they move along the conveyor
- Automatic redistribution of product to another robot if the assigned robot stops, ensuring that every product is always picked
- Single point for setup of the entire multi-robot system, making it very easy to use
- *iR*Vision eliminates the need for a PC during operation

FANUC Robotics' also offers PickPRO, the latest process-specific plug-in to ROBOGUIDE. ROBOGUIDE/PickPRO is an off-line robot simulation software with a FANUC Robotics Virtual Robot Controller and full-featured robot programming.

"PickPRO allows customers to build a multi-robot picking system in the virtual world, check cycle times, and determine the number of robots required for a given picking application," added Meyer.

ROBOGUIDE provides engineers the tools needed to develop and test a complete robotic application in a simulation environment without the time and costs associated with developing a prototype work cell. With ROBOGUIDE, users can simulate a robotic process in a 3D environment with the most accurate cycle time information for FANUC robots, compared to any other simulation package available in the industry.

The FANUC *iR*Vision system is a ready-to-use robotic vision package, available on all FANUC robots, requiring only a camera and cable – no additional processing hardware. It has a 2D robot guidance tool to accomplish part location, error proofing, and other operations that normally require special sensors or custom fixtures. For robotic vision processes that exceed the capability of 2D vision systems, FANUC Robotics offers an integrated 3D vision system.

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FANUC Robotics America, Inc. designs, engineers and manufactures industrial robots and robotic systems for a wide range of applications including arc and spot welding, material handling (machine tending, picking, packing, palletizing), material removal, assembly, paint finishing and dispensing. The company also provides application-specific software, controls, vision products, and complete support services. After 27 years of success, FANUC Robotics maintains its position as the leading robotics company in the Americas. A subsidiary of FANUC LTD in Japan, the company is headquartered in Detroit, and has facilities in Chicago; Los Angeles; Charlotte, N.C.; Cincinnati and Toledo, Ohio; Toronto; Montreal; Aguascalientes, Mexico; and Sao Paulo, Brazil. Over 210,000 FANUC robots are installed worldwide. Contact FANUC Robotics at www.fanucrobotics.com or by calling 1-800-iQ-ROBOT, option 5.

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