



◆ **ABB AG** (2005-12-19)

■ **80 robots destined for Audi factories Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm**

Carmaker Audi has ordered painting systems comprised of eighty robots valued at about eighteen million euro from ABB. The robots will be used on the paint lines for the Audi's A3, A4 and A6 models, which are manufactured at the Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm factories. The overall system consists of thirty-four painting robots and forty-six door and hood openers and will be commissioned by the end of 2006. The robots and associated control systems are being prepared for installation at Audi in the city of Friedberg in Hessen.

"The automotive industry is still the main field of application for industrial robots," explains Bernhard Jucker, Chairman of the Board of ABB AG, Mannheim. Jucker is also responsible for the Automation Technologies Division. "I am extremely pleased that we were able to convince Audi to decide in favor of our environmentally friendly concept for paint lines."

The very precise painting robots only fill up with the amount of paint actually required to coat the vehicles' doors and hoods. This minimizes the amount of costly paint that must be rinsed out between color changes and translates into savings over conventional color change methods. Presently, about 350 of these robots are in operation around the world.

ABB in Germany employs around 12,600 people and has annual sales of 2.7 billion euro. ABB is a leader in energy and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers as well as wholesalers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 103,000 people.

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