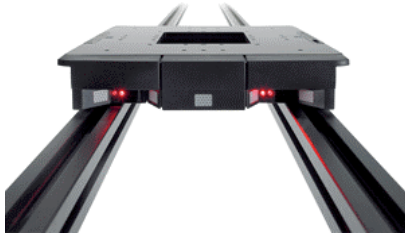


SERVUS Robotics GmbH (2005-12-01)**World-first innovation: Servus, the first autonomous and intelligent transport robot**

Servus – first intelligent transport robot

Does Servus represent a breakthrough in the field of Robotics?

The world-first intelligent transport robot Servus allows for easier, more flexible and economical systems for production and logistics. A fully customised product with small batch quantities is the real challenge, and will represent a major factor for survival for European companies in the future. Servus makes batch quantities of 1 not only possible but also cost-effective. The Austrian company Heron Robotunits has been developing this system now for 8 years!

The Servus System is made up of the desired number of transport robots, which move around on a track. As a direct result of its own intelligence, the transport robot communicates directly with its colleagues, assistants and workstations. Servus reacts constantly to its work and process situations, and at the same time to its immediate environment. From the information of the individual transport robots, and as a direct result of the communication between the transport robots and their assistants, an intelligent network is created, which is the reason why a complex centralised control system becomes obsolete.

“The Servus system can be easily and quickly tailored to the current and ever changing market conditions. The optimal level of automation can be easily achieved with Servus, offering a distinct market advantage. The breakthrough with Servus is that for the first time transport robots have the freedom to make their own decisions”, says Christian Beer, CEO of the company Heron Robotunits GmbH, responsible for the development of Servus.

New strategies with Servus in flow-production

With the aid of its own intelligence, Servus carries out all the necessary operation processes for the product being manufactured. It drives independently to all the required workstations taking the quickest route. In order for Servus to function and orientate itself without the need for a centralised control system, the developers have integrated the Manhattan address system. As a result of this logical address system, Servus always finds the correct route. The plan of Manhattan has been used in conjunction with the traffic roundabout principle, meaning that the transport robots, just like in normal traffic conditions, can move in a constant flow and therefore avoid waiting or idle time. The output in production and logistics then increases dramatically. Waste will be avoided. With an optimal flow of materials through the manufacturing process, the invested capital in production is reduced, and the profit increased.

Data as well as material transport

Servus transports work pieces and materials from “goods inwards”, through the production processes right up to final dispatch. The transport robots serve manual workstations as well as automated production systems and robots with workpieces and materials. And as an additional bonus, the transport robot with its own intelligence carries the operation procedures and all necessary data with it. Up-to-date quality control data will automatically be carried on to the next workstation.



■ **Servus is „plug & play“ capable and immediately operational**

The installation is simple and user friendly. The track system upon which Servus runs is individually manufactured to the customers' requirements. It can be mounted to the floor, suspended from the ceiling, fixed to the wall, and be set to run at any suitable working height. Because Servus doesn't need a centralised control, the assistants are simply connected to a compressed air and power supply, the required number of transport robots will be added – finished! The system is now running! With the use of the lift it is possible to use Servus at varying working heights. Many auxiliary assemblies can be mounted onto Servus. These can also be intelligent, but they are controlled by Servus. With intelligent material distribution, Servus can help to bring material boxes or bulk materials to the right place at the right time.

■ **Servus reduces waste**

“Waste is everything which adds no value to the product in the eyes of the customer”, which is for the world renowned Economist Joseph M. Juran the main factor for success. “We have experienced ourselves and often seen, that waste is automated and also integrated into manufacturing processes. The global market demands from us all, that if we want to be successful, we must manufacture without wasting time, materials or investment”, says Christian Beer.

It is our goal to make available for the manufacturing market, the exact tools required for production and logistics with our Transport Robot Servus, so that fully customised products can be manufactured and delivered quicker, easier, and more cost effectively. It is for us a priority to contribute to the generation and security of new workplaces. If we can achieve this together with our customers then we have achieved an important goal”, says Christian Beer at the World-premier of Servus at the Motek exhibition in Sinsheim.



Servus automated processing station



Servus extendable



Servus material boxes

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