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## PRESS INFORMATION

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# Sepro Celebrates Growth in North America; Returns to NPE with “Big” News

Coming off two record sales years in a row, Sepro America LLC is returning to NPE 2015 with a total of nineteen robots, including the first of two new lines of robots for large-tonnage injection-molding machines. Sepro is exhibiting in Booth W263 at the international plastics show being held March 23 – 27 in Orlando, FL.

2014 was a record year not only for Sepro America but also for its parent company Sepro Group, La Roche-sur-Yon, France, which booked €79.2 million in global sales. Sepro America, which provides automation sales, engineering and service throughout the United States and Canada, and also supports sister divisions in Mexico and South America, is Sepro's largest regional market. It saw 2014 sales jump 26% compared to 2013.

Jim Healy, Vice President – Sales & Marketing, acknowledged that the plastics industry overall has been bullish since 2011. “There’s no doubt that was a big part of it,” he says. “The automotive industry has been particularly dynamic and, with Sepro’s traditional strength in big robots, that means business for us. However, the growth has really been more broad-based than that. We’ve seen continued strength in medical and packaging segments in the U.S. west and southeast. And we’ve been growing market share, especially in smaller robots.”

Another factor, Healy explains, has been Sepro’s growing portfolio of products. In the last three years, the company has completed a full makeover of its production line and introduced five brand new robot ranges, including 5-axis Cartesian robots, 6-axis articulated-arm robots and more. “We like to talk about offering our customers ‘Your Free Choice in Robots,’” Healy says. “What we mean by this is that no matter what the application, no matter where you are in the world, regardless of the brand of molding

(More)

machines you run, or whether you are automating a new machine or an existing one, Sepro has a solution to your needs. Having one of the broadest product offerings in the industry is definitely an advantage and we see it paying off.”

#### THE NEXT BIG THING

The parade of new product offerings continues at NPE, with the introduction of three new lines of robots for injection-molding machines with clamping force between 700 and 5000 tons. The new large robots improve upon the Sepro Generation 4 Line, which previously covered high-tonnage molding applications. In general, the new S7 Line 3-axis robots and 7X Line 5-axis robots have longer kick (Y-axis) strokes, longer vertical (Z-axis) strokes and can handle larger payloads than their G4 predecessors. The Strong Line is a range of universal robots that make the speed and precision of full-servo actuation available to molders who have applications that require simple pick-and-place functionality and simple downstream operations.

In the Sepro booth, the new robots will be represented by a 5-axis 7X45 model, which combines the same 3-axis platform as the S7 robots with a 2-axis servo-driven wrist developed in partnership with Stäubli Robotics. Unlike pneumatic wrists, which can only move to set positions at 0° and 90° or 0° and 180°, the 7X wrists can move from 0 to 180° and 0 to 270° or anywhere within that range with absolute precision. Injection molders are choosing 5-axis robots, Healy reports, because the servo wrist gives them accuracy and flexibility to handle technically demanding parts, with lower tooling costs, less maintenance, cleaner operation and faster mold changes.

#### NINETEEN ROBOTS IN ALL

Besides the 7X45 robot, which is shown arranging giant building blocks with the help of a 6X160L articulated-arm unit, the full range of Sepro choices is on display at NPE. Elsewhere in the booth, a smaller 6-axis robot, a 6X90L, is operating with two 5-axis Cartesian robots in an “iPad relay,” and the “Universal” Success 22 and Success 33 robots are shown with a 5DA 11 dual-arm robot manipulating various auto parts. An S3 servo sprue picker and an SR55 pneumatic picker complete the line-up of ten robots in the Sepro booth.

A total of nine other Sepro robots can also be seen in operation in the exhibits of injection-molding machine manufacturers including:

- Sumitomo Demag – Booth W623
- Absolute Haitian – Booth W3683
- G. Pernoud North America (with Billion) – Booth W983
- Stork – Booth W929

- Maruka U.S.A./Toyo – Booth W303
- One other

## **ABOUT SEPRO**

Providing automation sales, engineering and service throughout the United States and Canada, Sepro America, LLC, is a wholly owned daughter company of Sepro Robotique, La Roche sur Yon, France. Sepro is a global company, with in-depth engineering and manufacturing capabilities, strong technical and marketing partnerships, unmatched service and support, and a diverse product offering. Founded in 1973, Sepro Robotique was one of the first companies in the world to develop Cartesian beam robots for injection-molding machines, introducing its first CNC controlled “manipulator” in 1981. Today, Sepro is one of the largest independent sellers of Cartesian robots. Customers around the world are supported by daughter companies in Germany, Spain, Benelux, the United Kingdom, the United States, Mexico, Brazil and China. Numerous direct sales and service offices as well as independent business partners, distributors and service hubs extend Sepro’s network to over 40 other countries. To date, Sepro has equipped more than 25,000 injection-molding machines worldwide. The company’s global turnover in 2014 was €79.2 million.

Ends



*This Sepro 7X45 robot is one of three models in the 7X Line of 5-axis robots for IMM from 800 to 5000 tons of clamp.*

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