Comau Features Innovative Wearable & Digital Manufacturing Products and Solutions at Automate 2019

HUMANufacturing Tech: Nothing Can Be More Human Than Technology.

April 8, 2019 – Chicago – From April 8-11, Comau, a member of the FCA Group and global leader in advanced industrial automation products and solutions, will be exhibiting at Automate, the broadest automation solutions event in North America. Held every other year, Automate features the latest in cutting-edge robotics, vision, motion control and related technologies. Comau’s booth, 7561, will showcase a mix of products and flexible solutions to enhance the automation needs of the industry.

“HUMANufacturing Tech” is the theme for Comau at Automate this year, representing the company’s vision of the factory of the future. Comau is taking digital-driven HUMANufacturing to a whole new level with powerful virtual and wearable technologies designed to increase productivity and quality within the evolving smart factory paradigm. During the automation solutions fair, Comau will show important technological innovations related to digitized virtual environments that allow companies to streamline their processes, improve their flexibility and minimize production losses. The show will serve as the North American launch of MATE, the wearable exoskeleton, as well as the global launch of Vir.GIL, a digital assistant for manual operations, and in.Grid, an interactive IoT platform that combines the digital and physical manufacturing environments.

Visitors to Comau’s exhibit will experience examples of Industry 4.0 strategies through digital twin virtualizations, which use advanced software to mirror a manufacturing line and collect, analyze and process data in order to optimize complex processes and production scenarios. In addition, e.DO, the small, modular, articulated open-source robot for educational, consumer and light industry applications will be featured in Comau’s booth. The compact robot is a key part of Comau’s innovative educational platform – called e.DO Experience - for students, teachers and industry professionals. The platform provides a new, interactive and creative approach to robot-enhanced learning and uses the e.DO robot to make teaching more hands-on and stimulating in schools and elsewhere.

For the first time in the United States, Comau introduces its first wearable exoskeleton, MATE, to the audience at Automate. MATE (Muscular Aiding Tech Exoskeleton) has been designed to improve work quality in an efficient and highly ergonomic manner by providing consistent and advanced movement assistance to the operator during repetitive, as well as daily tasks. It uses an advanced passive structure and delivers lightweight, breathable and highly effective postural support without the need for batteries, motors or other devices. MATE is compact and ergonomically designed thanks to the partnership between Comau, ÖSSUR (a leading non-invasive orthopedics company) and IUVO (a spin-off company of The BioRobotics Institute specialized in wearable technologies).

Featured for the first time globally at Automate 2019, Comau’s in.Grid interactive IoT platform combines digital and physical worlds through sensorization, data analysis and real-time monitoring of equipment and systems. With in.Grid intelligence, operators can quickly verify production parameters at any stage of the manufacturing process, streamline maintenance operations and prevent problems before they occur, and make manufacturing more efficient and optimized while reducing throughput times. Its line behavior testing results in high productivity, better quality, faster time-to-market, and lower costs.

Vir.GIL (Virtual Guidance Interactive Learning) is Comau’s all new digital assistant for manual operations making its debut at Automate. It is a merging of digital systems where lights guide the worker, sensors follow the worker, control assists the manual process, and speech and gestures offer a human-like interaction.
Vir.GIL responds to customer needs by improving product quality through correcting operations sequences, parts assembly and process execution and work-life quality through improved ergonomics and lessened physical stress.

Featured in a demonstration utilizing a Comau Racer-3 robot, PickAPP + Vision, Comau’s app currently available for Android devices, allows operators to guide robots in performing pick and place operations without the need of sophisticated programming software. Rather, the app acts in a simple, immediate way on the graphic interactive interface of a digital device. The simple configuration vision system facilitates the applicability of pick and place, a must in all industrial sectors.

Jointly shown with Vir.GIL, Comau’s innovative AGV (Automated Guided Vehicle) is flexible enough to be deployed across a wide range of manufacturing and non-manufacturing scenarios. Agile1500 is the first automated guided vehicle within the new AGV platform and fully expresses Comau’s open automation design approach. Modular, scalable and completely re-configurable, Agile1500 can carry up to 1,500 kg with a maximum speed of 1.7 m/s. Thanks to these characteristics, the AGV can significantly facilitate core operations including just-in-time and just-in-sequence production, as well as optimized logistic flows inside the factory, improved warehouse management and better overall production efficiency.

Agile1500 has a key role in the development of a new operating platform imposed by Industry 4.0. It can increase overall plant safety thanks to advanced security features. It also has an integrated laser scanner that stops the AGV upon detection of an obstacle along its route.

Known for its innovation and an open-engineering approach, Comau’s products and enabling technologies increasingly support interconnected digital environments in which people and robots work safely in close proximity and ‘intelligent’ industrial machines work efficiently and autonomously while interacting within a networked production system. Furthermore, as the name HUMANufacturing expresses, the company sees people as the key to the entire production process, aided by cutting-edge digital tools.

"Automate is the perfect North American debut for our state-of-the-art MATE exoskeleton, as well as the global launch of our in.GRID intelligence and Vir.GIL digital assistant. Visitors will see how Comau’s portfolio of digital solutions is continuously growing and expanding to meet the needs of the ever evolving market. These products and solutions represent Comau’s path to Industry 4.0 – HUMANufacturing – and all it represents: a new era of automation that is open, connected, in addition to being easy to understand and use,” said Brendan Blennerhassett, Comau NAFTA President & CEO.
About Comau

Comau, a member of the FCA Group, is a worldwide leader in delivering advanced industrial automation products and systems. Its comprehensive portfolio includes technology and systems for electric, hybrid and traditional vehicle manufacturing, industrial robots, collaborative and wearable robotics, autonomous logistics, dedicated machining centers and interconnected digital services and products able to transmit, elaborate and analyze machine and process data.

With over 45 years of field-proven experience and a strong presence within every major industrial country, Comau is helping manufacturers of all sizes in almost any industry experience higher quality, increased productivity, faster time-to-market and lower overall costs. The company’s offering also extends to project management and consultancy, as well as maintenance and training for a wide range of industrial segments.

Headquartered in Turin, Italy, Comau has an international network of 32 locations, 14 manufacturing plants and 5 innovation centers that span 14 countries and employ more than 9,000 people. A global network of distributors and partners allows the company to respond quickly to the needs of customers of all sizes, no matter where they are located throughout the world. Comau is also committed to improving human - machine collaboration by developing competencies through the formation of individuals and groups as part of its open automation approach. This includes hands-on training programs by Comau Academy that develop the technical and managerial competencies necessary to face the challenges and opportunities of Industry 4.0.

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