

## Press Release

Annecy (Haute-Savoie, France), 20th June 2016

### NTN-SNR to take part in Automatica trade fair in Munich

## NTN-SNR's wide product range, modularity and innovations cover all automated movement needs

For the first time, NTN-SNR shall take part in Automatica, the international trade fair for robotics, automation and mechatronics to be held from 21 to 24 June in Munich. NTN-SNR is a major player in the automation market and has one of the widest ranges of high-performance linear guides and modules, including a very large model that can bear loads of more than 1,000 kg. In addition to its linear guides and modules, NTN-SNR will exhibit on its 66m<sup>2</sup> stand several robotic innovations, including its parallel link robot, which is already in operation on a manufacturing site in Japan, and its lightweight bearings for joints in industrial robotics. Drawing on the strengths of these products and applications, NTN-SNR also offers the automation market a range of global solutions through dedicated application engineers who can undertake on-site integration operations, produce ad hoc designs and provide an on-site maintenance service anywhere in Europe.

### A linear module for every industrial need

#### High-performance equipment and a competitive solution

Automatica represents an opportunity for NTN-SNR to highlight the breadth of its range of linear modules and to showcase a few of its flagship automation products, particularly its linear modules, AXS, AXC and AXLM, which is equipped with a magnetically-levitated linear motor. NTN-SNR modules boast a very high level of performance in terms of their speed (5 m/s for modules with Linear Guides and up to 10 m/s for modules with Track Roller guiding), precision (2 to 5 microns repeatability) and load capacity (over 1,000 kg). All of these modules and the various possible combinations allow NTN-SNR to meet almost every automated movement configuration request. Furthermore, all of these products are very reliable and their service life has been extended by 50% thanks to a new generation of NTN-SNR linear guides equipped with the latest cage technology. Consequently, and above all, we have been able to reduce the number of maintenance operations required and optimise equipment productivity.

#### From the high-precision Cartesian robot to very large models

Thanks to the speed and precision of the modules, we can assemble Cartesian robots that are perfectly adapted to pick-and-place operations in the automotive industry (gearbox assembly, for example) and even in the agri-food industry (fruit handling, in particular). These Cartesian robots offer a wider range of actions and significant cost reduction.

NTN-SNR has also launched a new very-large AXS Portal axis (400 x 300 mm cross section) on steel base that reaches 10 meters length in one piece and has a load capacity of more than 1,000 kg. Due to the Rack & Pinion drive technology our AXS System could be enlarged easily, without affecting the equipment's load and speed qualities.

## **NTN-SNR, a major player in robotic innovation: two major products at Automatica**

### **PHACE\* parallel link robot**

NTN-SNR is demonstrating its parallel link robot at Automatica. This has an articulated head for particular applications requiring high-precision movement repeatability (up to 0.065°). A model fitted with a nozzle for the lubrication of gearboxes is already in use in a production facility in Japan. Its compactness, low inertia and its original architecture enables it to operate at high speed. It has a 360° rotational freedom of movement and 90° vertically. All its wiring is at the centre of the device. It can thus execute successive rotations without any risk of entanglement. Various applications have already been identified, such as 3D printing machines, control applications using a camera, welding and gluing. Its programming terminal has a touch screen that enables tasks to be programmed simply and intuitively. Its performance, productivity and operating costs make PHACE a competitive alternative to the articulated arm and Cartesian robots used in numerous applications.

**\*Parallel Link High Speed Angle Control Equipment**

### **Lightweight bearing for cobotic joint**

NTN-SNR has developed a 60 % lighter bearing to meet the challenges of weight reduction in robotics and, in particular, in industrial cobotics. This ball bearing has been particularly designed for the reduction gears used in the joints of cobots. NTN-SNR has achieved this reduction in weight through the use of aluminium in the less stressed bearing surfaces. It retains the same internal geometry, the same number of balls and offers the same load-bearing capacity as the equivalent all-steel bearing. This innovation, the result of three years of development, has been patented by NTN-SNR. This demonstrator, with an external diameter of 78 mm and a bore diameter of 20 mm has been functionally validated. In addition, having fully developed the manufacturing processes for this bearing, NTN-SNR is ready to supply this product for new cobotic developments.

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*NTN-SNR ROULEMENTS, with a head office at Annecy (Haute-Savoie, France), belongs to the Japanese group NTN Corporation, one of the world leaders in bearings. NTN-SNR ensures the management and development of all NTN activities for the EMEA region and Brazil. A major player as a designer, developer and manufacturer of bearings and sub-assemblies for automotive, industry and aeronautics, NTN-SNR offers a comprehensive range by also developing maintenance services and solutions. NTN-SNR employs 4,225 people at 9 production sites, including 6 in France, as well as 18 business representations.*

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#### PHACE\* parallel link robot



#### Lightweight bearing for cobotic joint

