

«Our customers benefit from the best solutions from the hardware and software world»

The IAR Group, formed last fall, and ETH spin-off ROB Technologies are entering into a long-term collaboration. Thus, two leading companies combine their core competencies in industrial automation and software development. The aim of the collaboration is to offer comprehensive automation solutions for timber construction.

«I am very pleased about the new collaboration. Together we can offer the wood construction industry intelligent complete solutions for the production and assembly of wood construction elements that are unparalleled on the market», says Sébastien Perroud, CEO of the IAR Group. Tobias Bonwetsch, founder and CEO of ROB Technologies, takes the same line: «Thanks to the collaboration, our customers in the timber construction industry benefit from the best solutions from the hardware and software worlds.» Bonwetsch sees another advantage in the international anchoring of the IAR Group: «Now we can cover not only the German-speaking market with our automation solutions, but also the Iberian and US markets.»

«We fill the gap between planning and production»

ROB Technologies develops software solutions that also enable SMEs to adapt their robot-assisted processes easily and quickly to new production tasks without programming knowledge. WoodFlex is a robot control software for automated timber construction that – based on CAD drawing data – allows a seamless transition from the planning to the production phase. Bonwetsch: «In practice, the existing planning data often falls by the wayside. With our software, we have succeeded in making it usable for downstream phases. In this way, we fill the gap between planning and production.»

«Our know-how in automation complements the manufacturing competencies»

The IAR Group unites three successful companies that have many years of experience in the construction of automated special machinery. Over the past 45 years, the companies of the IAR Group have not only built special machinery for a wide variety of industries, but also complex gantry robot plants, such as those used in the fabrication and assembly of wood construction elements. Perroud: «Our know-how in automation ideally complements the fabrication competencies of ROB Technologies.»

Exploiting potential sustainably

But why are the IAR Group and ROB Technologies focusing on timber construction? «According to our assessment, timber construction offers enormous potential, especially in the USA and Europe - we want to exploit this to the best possible extent for the benefit of our customers», says Perroud. Sustainability also plays an important role for the collaboration partners. Bonwetsch: «On the one hand, wood is a CO₂-neutral building material. On the other hand, we produce the plants locally. Only our technological know-how is exported.» Both managing directors are convinced that there will be increased demand worldwide for automation systems in timber construction in the coming years. «The shortage of skilled workers and cost pressure are forcing many companies to optimize processes - the use of automated manufacturing plants is an obvious choice.»

Further information: <https://woodautomation.iargroup.com>

IAR Group is an international group of three successful companies operating in the field of industrial automation and robotics. Based in Switzerland, the IAR Group includes the following operating entities: Automation Specialist Services LLC in the USA, Bachmann Engineering AG in Switzerland, and Zeugma S.A. in Portugal. Further information: www.iargroup.com

ROB Technologies, a spin-off of ETH Zurich, develops software solutions that empower our clients to adapt their robotic processes easily and quickly to new production tasks, regardless of any programming knowledge. Rob Technologies has a special focus on automated manufacturing processes in the construction industry. Further information: www.rob-technologies.com

Contacts

- IAR Group: Sébastien Perroud, info@iargroup.com, Tel. +41 (0)62 745 23 23
- ROB Technologies: Tobias Bonwetsch, info@rob-technologies.com, +41 (0)44 586 52 92