

Yaskawa Europe to Acquire Majority Shares of VIPA

Acquisition Strengthens Yaskawa's Automation Solutions Portfolio

Waukegan, IL. The Drives & Motion Division of Yaskawa America, Inc. is pleased to announce that Yaskawa Electric Corporation ("YASKAWA") has signed an agreement between its European subsidiary, YASKAWA Europe GmbH ("YEU") based in Eschborn, Germany, and VIPA Gesellschaft für Visualisierung und Prozessautomatisierung mbH ("VIPA"), based in Herzogenaurach, Germany, whereby YEU will acquire a majority of the shares of VIPA.

With the integration of VIPA into the YEU organization, YASKAWA is implementing its plan to complete its product portfolio to become a 'Total Solution Provider'. A combination of VIPA's product portfolio of PLCs, I/O modules and HMI, with YASKAWA's inverter, AC servo and robot product lines, will enable YASKAWA to offer a comprehensive automation solution portfolio for a diverse set of markets.

'VIPA is a perfect fit for Yaskawa. There are no overlaps in our product portfolios, but they are very complementary with much synergies to be expected', states Koichi Takamiya, CEO and Regional Head for Europe, YASKAWA Europe GmbH.

'The tight cooperation with the global YASKAWA organization provides great growth opportunities for VIPA, particularly in Asia and the Americas', explains Wolfgang Seel, CEO of VIPA.

'Beside the synergies resulting from the combined and integrated product portfolio, there are more benefits for existing and new YASKAWA customers', states Manfred Stern, President of YASKAWA Europe GmbH. 'By adding the engineering resources of 'Drives & Motion Division' and 'Robotics Division' to VIPA, YASKAWA Europe now has a strong development team here in Europe, close to our customers and the markets. The VIPA acquisition, the recent significant investment into the new Headquarters infrastructure of the Robotics Division in Germany and the acquisition of YASKAWA Southern Africa earlier this year, proves YASKAWA's commitment to the EMEA region as well as the growth expectations for Europe', according to Manfred Stern.

The closing of the transaction is subject to customary merger control clearance by the relevant competition authorities.

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About Yaskawa

Founded in 1915, Yaskawa Electric is the world's leading supplier of variable speed drives, motion control, and robotics.

The Drives & Motion Division of Yaskawa America, Inc. manufactures industrial automation equipment. Its products include industrial AC drives, commercial HVAC drives, spindle drives and motors, servo systems, motion controllers, and low-voltage industrial control switches. The company's products are used in automotive, building automation, chemical and petrochemical, food and beverage, machine tool, material handling, metal forming, packaging, pharmaceutical, solar, plastics and rubber, and textile applications.

Yaskawa America's Motoman Robotics Division provides robotic automation solutions for virtually every industry and robotic application, including arc welding, assembly, coating, dispensing, material handling, material cutting, material removal and spot welding operations.

Yaskawa America, Inc. employs more than 1,000 people at its headquarters in Waukegan, IL and in offices across the United States. For more information about Yaskawa, please visit our website at www.yaskawa.com.

About VIPA Gesellschaft für Visualisierung und Prozessautomatisierung, mbH

VIPA was founded in 1985 in Erlangen by Mr. Wolfgang Seel as a system house for automation engineering. After the first PC-based machine operating panel there were further developments of control and communication modules. The first customers were from the automotive and food industry, for which it undertook engineering and machine and plant construction.

The introduction of the modular automation System 200V was the basis for creating more powerful, faster and more reliable control systems.

The development of the SPEED7 High-SPEED PLC in 2003 was a further technological milestone in the automation equipment range (www.speed7.com). PLC systems from VIPA equipped with Speed-technology7, belong to the most powerful PLC systems in the market. VIPA offers from small to high performance, all types of PLC systems, including Remote I/O, Touchpanels and SCADA systems. VIPA is widely known as a system solution provider to all types of industry.

In the year 2000 the new 2000 sq.m. headquarters in Herzogenaurach, west of Erlangen was opened, which was extended by a new building in 2008, with an additional 7.500 sq.m. More than 180 highly qualified employees are working for VIPA in its headquarters in Herzogenaurach. The turnover of VIPA in 2011 was € 42 million.

VIPA is an international company serving its customers in 59 countries worldwide through an extensive network of solution partners, representative offices and affiliates.

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