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April - June 2025 Issue

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# DEAR READERS,

Welcome to the April–June 2025 edition of Automotive and Industrial Review Africa. As we turn the pages of this dynamic year, it is becoming increasingly evident that Africa is not just a participant in the global automotive and industrial space—but a driving force in innovation, resilience, and transformation.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on the new wave of manufacturing initiatives across the continent, particularly in electric mobility and sustainable industrial development. The shift toward cleaner energy and smarter production lines is not just a global trend—it is a necessity, and African innovators are answering the call. From South Africa's fast-evolving EV infrastructure to Nigeria's push in local auto parts production, we are witnessing a period of remarkable transition.

One of our feature stories dives into how industrial parks across East and West Africa are creating opportunities for localized production, skills development, and job creation. These zones are not just spaces of manufacturing; they are ecosystems of growth, collaboration, and forward-thinking solutions tailored to African needs.

We also bring you exclusive interviews with leaders in the supply chain, heavy-duty vehicle manufacturing, and plant automation industries—individuals who are not only adapting to change but are shaping it. Their insights offer a compelling look into the strategies that are driving success in increasingly complex and competitive markets.

Of course, no edition would be complete without updates on the aftermarket scene, heavy equipment trends, and intelligent transport systems making their way into mining, construction, and logistics operations. The technological synergy between the automotive and industrial sectors is clearer than ever, and our coverage aims to keep you informed on every gear shift and pivot.

As always, Automotive and Industrial Review Africa remains committed to serving as a platform for African excellence, connecting stakeholders, and highlighting solutions that are both impactful and scalable. Whether you are a manufacturer, supplier, engineer, or policy influencer, our goal is to equip you with the knowledge and inspiration needed to thrive in this rapidly evolving landscape.

We thank you for your continued readership and support. As you explore this edition, we hope it sparks ideas, encourages dialogue, and reinforces your role in shaping the future of Africa's industrial and automotive identity.

Onward with innovation and purpose.

Warm regards,

Collen Geza

Editor-in-Chief

Automotive and Industrial Review Africa



# Editors Note



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# "SDVS DEMAND NEW ZONAL ARCHITECTURE ECOSYSTEMS"



**During The Autonomous 2023, industry stakeholders agreed that fostering a culture of safety is essential to finally move autonomous vehicles (AVs) beyond the hype. At the 2024 event on 23-24 September, discussions centered on the technological foundation of that culture: software-defined vehicles (SDVs).**

Dirk Linzmeier, CEO at TTTech Auto, described the shift to SDVs and AVs as the "biggest transformation" in automotive history. He emphasized that this transition is inevitable, far-reaching, and accelerating. Goldman Sachs projects that by 2028, 28% of vehicles will feature SAE Level 2+/2++ advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), with 90% of new cars incorporating software-defined features by 2030. Linzmeier highlighted that significant investment will be required, predicting an

initial split between Eastern and Western markets, with Western automakers potentially losing ground in China to domestic companies. He stressed, however, that safety is neither a competitive issue nor a compromise—it's about getting it right. Achieving this vision requires collaboration across the SDV value chain.

To meet customer and investor expectations, autonomous systems must outperform human drivers in safety. Testing metrics need to be rigorous, and

the miles driven by current development systems are just the beginning. Ricky Hudi, Chairman of The Autonomous, noted that achieving an SDV means "no corner cutting" and more than just advanced software. The goal is to seamlessly integrate an ever-evolving suite of desirable features. However, this demands harmonization of complex technologies like sensor hardware, connectivity, and machine learning algorithms, all while prioritizing safety and scalability.



This challenge has driven a shift in vehicle architecture. Traditionally, domain-oriented designs rely on hundreds of electronic control units (ECUs) managing specific functions, but as SDVs grow more complex, this approach results in cumbersome wiring and diminished performance. Zonal architecture, which consolidates related functions into streamlined, centrally controlled units, is emerging as a superior solution. At the event, Lars Reger, CTO at NXP Semiconductors, warned that some automakers have faltered in this transition, creating “zomain” architectures—disjointed combinations of outdated hardware and software that hinder progress. “Frankensteining will not get us where we want to be,” Reger remarked.

Simplifying SDV architectures is critical. Reger presented NXP’s S32 CoreRide platform as an example of how layered, collaborative approaches can address these challenges. Semiconductor manufacturers provide foundational chips with integrated processing, networking, and power management capabilities. Software providers then contribute certified middleware and operating systems pre-integrated with this hardware. Finally, OEMs

and Tier 1 suppliers add custom vehicle applications, resulting in coherent, tailored architectures. This modular approach also supports the decoupling of hardware and software, enabling automakers to manage resources more effectively. Prashant Gulati, CEO of SDVerse, argued that embracing zonal architectures is essential to unlocking the multi-trillion-dollar SDV opportunity.

Competition and growth remain viable, with initiatives like SDVerse’s B2B marketplace connecting OEMs and software developers to foster innovation. Renault and General Motors are already partners, leveraging the ecosystem to discover and commercialize compatible solutions. Ethan Sorrelgreen, Global Head of Product at Woven by Toyota, noted that standardizing hardware can reduce costs, improve quality, and enhance safety. Shared systems, like braking applications adaptable across models, demonstrate how SDVs can achieve scalability and cost efficiency.

A cultural shift is equally important. Michael Fait, Head of SDVs, Europe, at Thoughtworks, noted that software development must embrace fluidity, departing from the traditional “get it right the first time” mindset.

Sorrelgreen emphasized applying principles from Toyota’s production system to software, advocating for standardization to drive cost reduction and quality improvement. Although the transition will be challenging, it is vital for unlocking the full safety potential of SDVs.

The stakes are high. In the US, road fatalities currently average 1.26 per 100 million miles driven, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Stefan Poledna, CTO at TTTech Auto, stressed that SDVs must surpass this benchmark through diverse and redundant architectural features. Integration is key, requiring platform approaches and advanced system architecture capabilities.

Gulati underscored that software is no longer optional but a matter of survival. The global auto software market is projected to more than double from 2020 to 2030, reaching \$84 billion. Nikolai Setzer, CEO of Continental, concluded that SDVs will thrive only if the industry adopts a collaborative mindset. Establishing an open and transparent ecosystem, he argued, is both the greatest challenge and the greatest opportunity for the sector.

# JBL DRIVES AUTOMOTIVE AUDIO EXCELLENCE WITH NEXT GENERATION STAGE 1 SERIES



**H**arman International Industries, a leader in connected technologies for the automotive, consumer, and enterprise sectors, is unveiling the second generation of its popular JBL Stage 1 speakers. Designed for easy integration into factory vehicles of all types, these new speakers feature advanced technology to deliver JBL's signature audio quality to every drive.

"At JBL, we understand that exceptional audio significantly enhances the driving experience, and we are committed to making this a reality for both the next generation of drivers and audiophiles," said Kris Bellinghausen, Senior

Director of Product Strategy & Planning for Car Audio Aftermarket at JBL. "Behind their signature orange color, our new JBL Stage 1 speakers incorporate our latest automotive innovations, including Plus One™ cones and PEI tweeters, ensuring every journey feels like a concert."

The new JBL Stage 1 speakers range from 90 to 500 watts of power, integrating JBL's latest technologies to elevate in-car sound. The patented Plus One™ Polypropylene Woofer Cones provide more surface area than other speakers of the same size, resulting in higher sensitivity, increased low-frequency output, and a richer musical experience.

The bold metallic burnt orange design links directly to JBL's iconic color and its long-standing reputation for sonic excellence.

Additionally, the JBL Stage 1 162CF features an edge-driven PEI Dome tweeter for a smoother high-frequency response, eliminating harshness at any output level compared to standard W-domes. This model also includes flush-mounted tweeters, simplifying installation in various vehicles without the need for modifications, along with an in-line high-pass filter to deliver cleaner sound and reduce the impact of lower frequencies that can be damaging to the system.





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# SCHAEFFLER

## SCHAEFFLER GROUP INVESTS IN AGILITY

### ROBOTICS

Despite skepticism surrounding the readiness of humanoid robots for industrial use, an increasing number of test cases are being introduced to assess the current capabilities of humanoid robot technology. Notable examples include initiatives by Amazon, GXO Logistics, and Mercedes-Benz.

In a significant development, Schaeffler, a leading Germany-based motion technology company, has made a minority investment in Agility Robotics, the creator of the Digit humanoid robot. Along with the investment, Schaeffler has entered into an agreement to

purchase humanoid robots from Agility Robotics for deployment across its global plant network. Andreas Schick, COO of Schaeffler AG, commented, "In times of disruption, adopting innovative manufacturing solutions is essential for success. Humanoids have a vital role to play in this. At Schaeffler, we plan to integrate this technology into our operations, with the potential to deploy a significant number of humanoids in our 100 global plants by 2030."

Schaeffler has also made headlines this year for embracing other cutting-

edge technologies, such as AI copilots. The company is leveraging generative artificial intelligence throughout its product lifecycle, from design and engineering to manufacturing and operations. In particular, Schaeffler utilizes Siemens Industrial Copilot technology to automate engineering and operations tasks within its production machinery.

Highlighting the rapid, yet focused adoption of humanoid robot testing in industry, Agility Robotics pointed out that its collaboration with GXO Logistics marked the first-ever robots-as-a-service (RaaS) deployment of humanoid robots in the logistics sector.



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# HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY EXPLORES PARTNERSHIP WITH TVS MOTOR COMPANY TO ANALYZE LAST-MILE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS FOR INDIA

**H**yundai Motor Company (Hyundai Motor) today unveiled concept models of advanced electric three-wheeler and micro four-wheeler at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025. In collaboration with TVS Motor Company Ltd. (TVS Motor), Hyundai is exploring opportunities in the last-mile mobility market in India.

These innovative concepts demonstrate Hyundai Motor's vision of 'Progress for Humanity' by reimagining mobility solutions that prioritize convenience, sustainability, and adaptability within India's dynamic transportation

landscape. Hyundai aims to offer design, engineering, and technology expertise, while TVS Motor will focus on manufacturing and marketing the vehicles.

SangYup Lee, Executive Vice President and Head of Hyundai and Genesis Global Design, said, "Hyundai Motor is a customer-centric brand, and caring for people in India is our first mission. This commitment drives us to explore designing micro-mobility solutions tailored to India's unique environment, enhancing mobility experiences through thoughtful design."



E4W Concept



E3W Concept



## The concept vehicles embody

Hyundai's advanced engineering and technological innovation, reshaping last-mile connectivity in India. They address the need for sustainable mobility while adapting to Indian road conditions and urban infrastructure.

Sharad Mishra, President of Group Strategy at TVS Motor Company, stated, "TVS is proud to explore a partnership with Hyundai Motor to shape the future of urban mobility. By combining Hyundai's global expertise with our understanding of mobility solutions, we aim to develop next-generation micro-mobility solutions that redefine last-mile connectivity."

### Key Features of the Concepts

The Electric Three-Wheeler Concept features an angled windshield for superior visibility, enhanced collision protection, a flat floor, and an extended wheelbase for comfort and ergonomics. It has a compact size and adjustable body height to navigate narrow and waterlogged streets efficiently. Large tires ensure a smooth ride on rough terrains, and the towing hook provides easy recovery from potholes.

The concept's innovative design includes a foldable seat for wheelchair users, promoting accessibility and inclusivity. The vehicle's unique color, 'Aakaashi Blue,' symbolizes the Indian Ocean and sky, reflecting depth, stability, and wisdom.

Hyundai Motor is also reviewing the use of heat-reducing gloss black paint on the roof to lower interior heat conductivity, as well as exploring water-resistant materials for enhanced durability. The practical interior includes adaptable storage, a slim cluster for information display, and pegboard-inspired panels for safety and convenience.

Designed to inspire adaptable solutions, Hyundai's Micro Mobility Concepts adopt a modular approach to manufacturing, promoting sustainability and practicality. These vehicles embody Hyundai Motor's commitment to reshaping last-mile connectivity in India, leveraging advanced capabilities and technological innovation to provide sustainable solutions that align with the nation's evolving infrastructure.





MARCA LA DIFERENCIA

## GEELY MEXICO INTRODUCES THE ALL NEW CITYRAY, AMPLIFYING ITS DIVERSE VEHICLE LINEUP

**G**eely México proudly launched the All New Cityray to supplement its powerful lineup of vehicles. The Cityray theme, "Make the Difference," embodies its mission to redefine the SUV segment and cater to the evolving needs of Mexican consumers. With the SUV market in Mexico experiencing continuous growth, the arrival of the 2025 Cityray presents a compelling opportunity for consumers seeking a stylish and reliable vehicle that stands out from the crowd.

Redefining Modern Mobility with Efficiency and Technology  
Developed under Geely's

BMA platform with insights from nearly 100 experts across more than 20 countries, the Geely Cityray stakes its claim with a distinctive, modern design. This SUV not only fulfills the need for space and versatility but also boasts a powerful yet efficient 172-horsepower engine, making it ideal for everyday driving. Moreover, its advanced connectivity and safety features are expected to strongly appeal to buyers who prioritize these elements in their vehicles.

Innovative Design that Captures Attention  
This new 4.5-meter-long SUV inherits the futuristic design

DNA of its bigger sibling, the Geely Starray, showing marked lines that give it a striking and attractive appearance. It features a three-dimensional grille framed by LED headlights. On the sides, there is a cross-design line along with others that define the wheel arches, which, along with the 16" or 18" turbine-style aluminum wheels, emphasize its robust look. At the rear, the complex and refined design is created by arrowhead-shaped taillights connected by a bar, all of which are LED; a large rear fascia with an integrated diffuser that frames the dual chrome exhausts, and a spoiler that accentuates its sportiness.



**C**lub América Mascots Joins Cityray Launch  
At the launch event, the mascots of Club América Mexico made an appearance alongside the Cityray, bringing added energy to the occasion. As part of Geely Auto's official sponsorship, Thomas Hernandez, the Commercial Director of Club América, took the stage to deliver a speech. He highly praised the Cityray SUV and announced that the captain of the women's football team would conduct an in-depth one-month test drive. Mr. Hernandez also expressed his keen anticipation for cooperation with Geely Mexico in 2025.

Looking Into 2025: Geely México's Vision for Expansion and Innovation  
Geely México sets an

ambitious course for 2025, targeting the sale of 25,000 vehicles, more than doubling its sales in the previous year. The company's strategic growth includes not only the Cityray's launch but also the expansion of its distributor network, as emphasized by Tony Chi, Deputy General Manager of Geely Auto International Corporation, General Director of Geely México: "We aim to expand our distributor network to reach 100 dealers for 100% of national coverage across 32 states of the Republic." "Geely México will continue to elevate the user experience with the Geely Go user brand we introduced last October, a platform in which customers can engage with our brand, and co-

create a 'Go Beyond Cars' user experience and a more diverse lifestyle experience," continued Tony Chi.

This diverse range of mobility options allows the Geely Auto brand to offer a comprehensive product portfolio that caters to different transportation needs and preferences of Mexican consumers. The company also aims to provide more energy options in 2025 to address the evolving market demands. By providing vehicles that embody globally recognized quality, high value, and unwavering commitment to safety and comfort, Geely solidifies its position as a trusted partner for discerning drivers in the Mexican market.







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# UNDER THE SKIN: TOYOTA HILUX AND FORTUNER UPDATE

- 48V mild electric hybrid system arrives on Fortuner and Hilux (crew cab only).
- Available with 2.8l turbo diesel and 6 speed automatic transmission powertrain only.
- There are no structural changes compared to vehicles without the 48V MHEV system.
- What does the user/owner see that's different?



Outwardly, only badges show the 48V MHEV system is fitted.

2.8 litre engine with air to water Intercooled turbo diesel engine introduced in 2020 is near identical – except for the starter generator, dual tensioner and revised accessory drive belt layout.



The instrument pack has a different layout and can display the system charge status.

# AUTOMATING DRIVE SYSTEMS FOR EFFICIENCY, RELIABILITY



**A**lready in use by leading global manufacturers in South Africa, SEW-EURODRIVE's innovative MOVI-C® modular automation system will bring a new level of flexibility, integration and efficiency to a wide range of sectors.

The MOVI-C® range received its formal public launch in South Africa at the Electra Mining Africa exhibition, opening exciting opportunities for local industries, according to Willem Strydom, SEW-EURODRIVE's Manager Business Development Electronics.

"MOVI-C® is a modular automation system that includes all necessary components for drive and control solutions, from software to hardware," says Strydom. "Its modularity means that it can be customised to meet the specific requirements of different applications and industries."

Customers have been attracted by benefits such as the seamless integration of all components, he explains,

which ensures compatibility and reduces installation time. The technology also meets high energy efficiency standards, helping customers to reduce their operational costs while minimising their environmental impact.

"The modular system comprises cabinet inverters, decentralised field mounted drives, motion controllers and the software, which all complement each other," he says.

A key feature of SEW-EURODRIVE's offering is the MOVILINK® digital data interface (DDI), which connects the drivetrain to the data system – delivering real time information on indicators such as energy efficiency, application performance and condition monitoring.

"This innovative DDI solution is an important differentiator for SEW-EURODRIVE as there is no other player in the market who currently has this offering," says Strydom. It fits into the motor with no external or additional sensors,

and boasts a hybrid cable which is bespoke to SEW-EURODRIVE, connecting the motor to the variable speed drive (VSD). The cable carries not only the power supply, but also the communications and condition monitoring.

"The data generated and transmitted is vital in facilitating predictive maintenance," he explains. "Customers can monitor vital signs such as the temperatures and vibration levels in a motor and gearbox; the value of getting this information 'live' is that action can quickly be taken if important operating parameters are breached."

The advanced features allow the SEW IOT Suite software to alert the user by email, WhatsApp or telephone call – and can even shut down the application to prevent any damage. The software interface can be employed on computer or as an app on a mobile phone, depending on how the user wants to monitor their equipment.



"The real time feedback from an application in the field also allows systems to be adjusted for optimal performance and efficiency," he says. "For instance, the motor speed can be changed continuously according to the demands of the application, saving energy and potentially extending machine life."

Importantly, the heightened sensitivity of the sensors means that users are alerted earlier, as they will pick up warning signs before human operators can hear or feel any indication of a problem.

Strydom highlights that the versatile system is suitable for both centralised and decentralised automation architectures, providing flexibility for different installation requirements. The MOVISUITE® engineering software is designed to be user friendly, so that it can simplify the planning, commissioning,

operation and diagnostics functionality.

"The MOVI-C® system can also be scaled to meet the specific needs of various industrial processes, whether these are single-axis or multi-axis applications, with simple or complex motion control," he explains.

The Movi-C portfolio also includes preconfigured software modules, known as Movikits for the implementation of simple drive functions such as speed control and positioning, through to complex multi-axes motion control functions. An example is the Anti-Sway Movikit which is used to eliminate sway in overhead crane applications.

While MOVI-C® has applications across the board, its powerful capabilities are well demonstrated in stacking

and retrieval systems in industrial warehouses, he explains. This application includes both a travelling element (sideways movement) and a hoisting element (up and down movement).

"Wherever applications produce regenerative power, the regenerative power supply can harness the regenerative power and re-utilise it by directing it back into the system or storing it in battery packs or capacitor banks," he says.

In South Africa, the system is being used by global automotive manufacturers, and has also been embraced by the food and beverage sector. Strydom sees significant opportunities in the mining industry, including ventilation functions and plant activities using pumps that need more accurate control.





## HONDA AND RENESAS SIGN AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP HIGH-PERFORMANCE SOC FOR SOFTWARE-DEFINED VEHICLES

**H**onda Motor Co., Ltd. and Renesas Electronics Corporation announced today that they have signed an agreement to develop a high-performance system-on-chip (SoC) for software-defined vehicles (SDVs). The new SoC is designed to deliver leading-edge\*1 AI performance of 2,000\*2 TOPS combined with a world-class power efficiency of 20 TOPS/W, and is slated for use in future models of the "Honda 0 (Zero) Series," Honda's new electric vehicle (EV) series, specifically those that will be launched in the late 2020s. The agreement was announced during a Honda press conference

held at CES 2025 in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 7.

Honda is developing original SDVs to provide a mobility experience optimized for each individual customer in the Honda 0 Series. The Honda 0 Series will adopt a centralized E/E architecture that combines multiple electronic control units (ECUs) responsible for controlling vehicle functions into a single ECU. The core ECU, which serves as the heart of the SDV, manages essential vehicle functions such as Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and Automated Driving (AD),

powertrain control, and comfort features, all on a single ECU. To achieve this, the ECU requires a SoC that provides higher processing performance than traditional systems, while minimizing any increase in power consumption.

Renesas is committed to providing automotive semiconductor solutions that enable automobile OEMs to develop SDVs. Renesas' R-Car solutions offer higher AI performance with the ability to customize by leveraging multi-die chiplet technology\*3 and integrating AI accelerators\*4 into its SoC.

To realize the Honda vision for SDVs, Honda and Renesas reached an agreement to develop a high-performance SoC compute solution designed for core ECUs. Using TSMC's leading-edge 3-nm automotive process technology, this SoC also can achieve a significant reduction in power consumption. Additionally, it realizes a system that utilizes multi-die chiplet technology to combine Renesas' generic fifth-generation (Gen 5) R-Car X5 SoC series with an AI accelerator optimized for AI software developed independently by Honda. With this combination, the

system aims to achieve one of the industry's top class AI performances with power efficiency. The SoC chiplet solution will provide the AI performance required for advanced functions such as AD, while keeping power consumption low. Chiplet technology allows flexibility to create customized solutions and offers future upgrades for functional and performance improvements.

Honda and Renesas have collaborated closely for many years. This agreement will accelerate the integration of advanced semiconductor and software innovations into the Honda

0 Series, enhancing the mobility experience for customers.

\*1 Renesas estimate as of January 2025

\*2 Tera Operations Per Second (TOPS) is a metric of AI processing performance and measures the number of operations that can be performed per second. Based on a sparse AI model.

\*3 Technology to build a system by combining multiple chips with different functions

\*4 Hardware designed for high-speed and high-efficiency AI (artificial intelligence) computational processing

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## **GEELY UNVEILED AUTO INDUSTRY'S FIRST-EVER “FULL-DOMAIN AI FOR SMART VEHICLES” TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM**

**G**eely recently introduced the groundbreaking “Full-Domain AI for Smart Vehicles” technology system at CES 2025. This system, grounded in an AI-native operating system (OS), covers both consumer and business users and a smart ecosystem that spans aerial, spatial, and terrestrial realms.

Geely aims to create a native “Autonomous Intelligence for Mobility” that is warm, empathetic, and continually evolving. The advanced AI

developments built on this system include an end-to-end large voice model, AI digital chassis, smart cockpit, and intelligent driving technology. These innovations will gradually appear in Geely’s future models.

**Pioneering Full-Domain AI:  
Geely’s Approach to Future  
Mobility**

In recent years, AI technology has grown exponentially, driving the manufacturing industry towards intelligence. Geely focuses on integrating and

applying AI technology in smart vehicles, resulting in a comprehensive “Full-Domain AI for Smart Vehicles” system. This system serves consumer users, enterprise users, and a comprehensive smart ecosystem spanning aerial, spatial, and terrestrial realms. Geely’s Full-Domain AI goes beyond in-vehicle AI, offering a broader range of functionalities. Its ultimate goal is to create a native “Autonomous Intelligence for Mobility” that is warm, empathetic, and continuously evolving.



**A**t the core of Geely's "Full-Domain AI for Smart Vehicles" system lies a system-level large model AI OS. This versatile platform seamlessly adapts to various endpoints, ensuring system security and user privacy while managing resources and executing tasks efficiently. Through AI OS's scheduling engine, the system can coordinate the needs and perceived data from devices like vehicles, smartphones, tablets, wearables, smart homes, and other intelligent entities. This enables precise service delivery across platforms, fostering a seamless smart life experience in all scenarios.

Making AI technology in smart vehicles more accessible

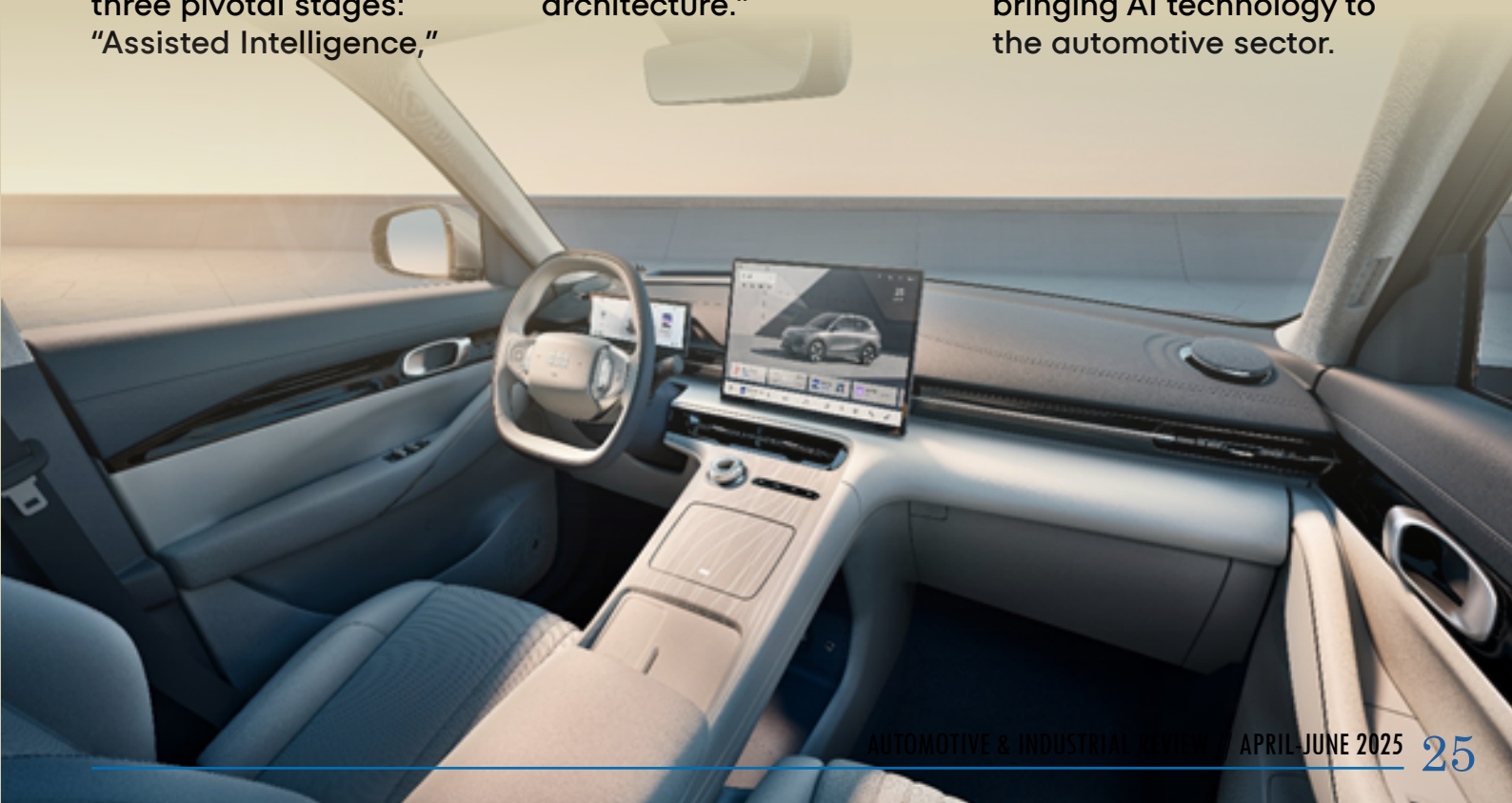
According to Geely's vision, the evolution of smart vehicles will go through three pivotal stages: "Assisted Intelligence,"

"Agent Intelligence," and ultimately "Autonomous Intelligence." By continuously refining the "Body + Intelligence" paradigm, these vehicles will evolve into "Autonomous Intelligence for Mobility" that are warm and emotional.

Geely's "Full-Domain AI for Smart Vehicles" technology system has been seamlessly integrated into its product development cycle. The GEA architecture has been enhanced with the Geely Xingrui AI Large Model, and the cutting-edge Generation 3.0 electronic and electrical architecture (GEEA 3.0), automotive-grade chips, and operating systems have incorporated Geely's AI technological expertise. This makes Geely a pioneer in the industry, possessing the comprehensive capability to "craft AI vehicles with an AI-centric architecture."

A collection of Geely's AI technological innovations, emergent from the "Full-Domain AI for Smart Vehicles" system, including the AI Galaxy Genie, Flyme Auto Smart Cockpit, Infinite Space, AI Cloud Power, AI Picture Book, AI Sentinel, and Wow Wallpaper, will be selectively rolled out in vehicles based on the unique needs and preferences of different markets.

Geely, empowered by its "Full-Domain AI for Smart Vehicles" technology system, is poised to lead the charge in integrating the latest AI technologies into its vehicles this year. These cutting-edge advancements include end-to-end large voice models, AI digital chassis, and advanced intelligent driving technology. By embracing these innovations, Geely is further solidifying its position as a trailblazer in bringing AI technology to the automotive sector.



# MOVU ROBOTICS AND COGNIBOTICS UNVEIL INTEGRATED WAREHOUSE SOLUTIONS AT LOGIMAT

Cognibotics has integrated its pick and place robot, the HKM1800, known as MovU eligo in the MovU Robotics lineup, into MovU's advanced warehouse systems.

This partnership underscores Cognibotics' dedication to advancing robotics and automation, marking "a significant milestone in accessing one of the largest global logistics platforms", says the company.

This collaboration will be showcased at LogiMAT 2025, the leading international trade fair for intralogistics solutions. Here, attendees can witness firsthand the capabilities of the HKM1800 robotic systems within MovU's operational framework.

The HKM1800, known for its unmatched speed and extended reach, significantly enhances warehouse operations, providing a more efficient method for sorting, picking, and handling materials.

This integration is set within the "Movu esca" bin shuttle system, emphasizing scalable high-speed order fulfillment. Steven Mouws, robotic picking manager at Movu Robotics, says: "The HKM1800 runs double the productivity rates and reaches more bins than any other solution we've tried.

"This breakthrough represents a significant boost in efficiency and the ease of new integrations and operational quality.

It's transforming how we approach logistics and automation."

Fredrik Malmgren, CEO at Cognibotics, says: "The integration of HKM1800 into MovU's systems exemplifies state-of-the-art engineering and marks a significant advance in operational effectiveness.

"Our partnership with MovU demonstrates our commitment to delivering superior, scalable, and innovative logistics automation solutions."

Cognibotics can be found at LogiMAT 2025, Hall 3; B67, where the company says it will showcase "the future of warehouse automation brought to life through our collaboration with MovU".

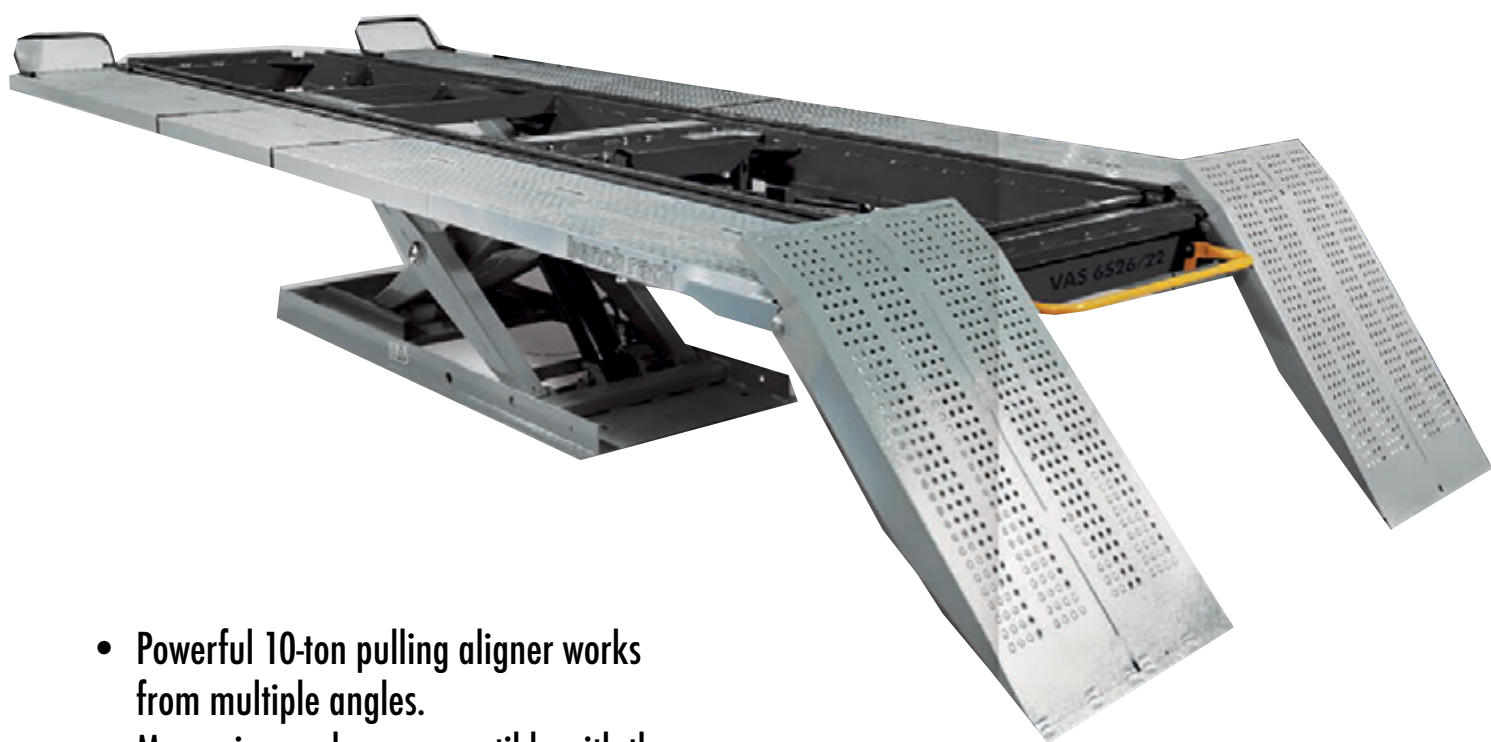




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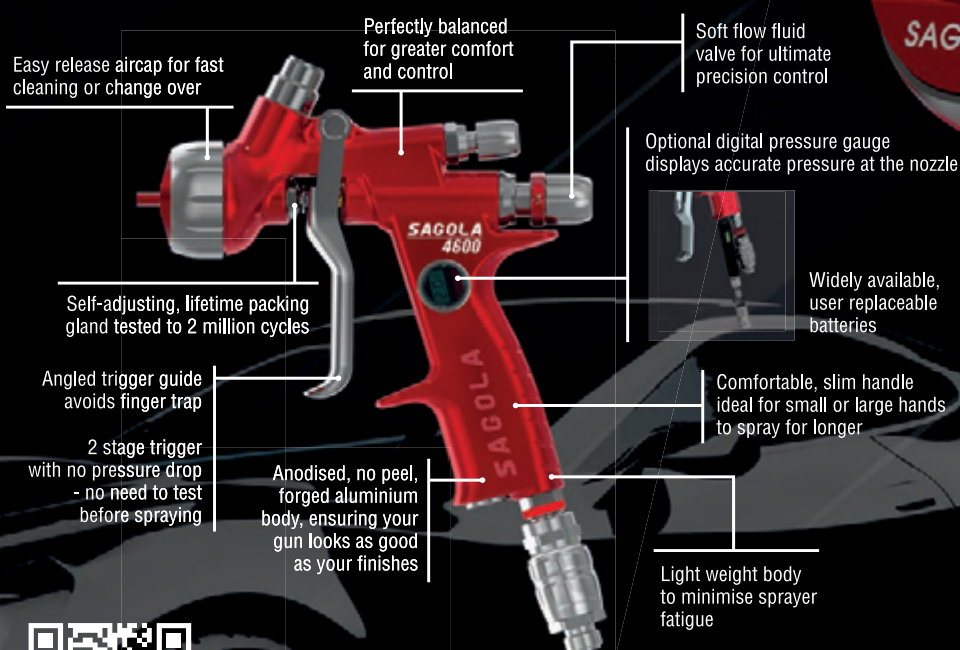
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# mitsubishi electric's new ROBOT RANGE SUPPORTS 'DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN MANUFACTURING'

**M**itsubishi Electric has launched its MELFA RH-10CRH and RH-20CRH SCARA robots, providing manufacturers with greater flexibility in adopting digital manufacturing while addressing skilled workforce shortages.

These new robots enhance industrial automation through high-speed operation, easy installation, and exceptional efficiency. Compact and lightweight, they are ideal for manufacturers aiming to boost productivity while navigating space and weight constraints.

Engineered with versatility in mind, the MELFA RH-CRH series is a perfect fit for a wide range of applications, including assembly, coating, and precision conveyance.

With maximum reach radii ranging from 600mm to 1000mm and payload capacities of up to 10kg and 20kg, respectively, the RH-10CRH and RH-20CRH offer performance and adaptability to meet various production needs.

The RH-10CRH is designed for transportation and assembly in the food and automotive industries, while the RH-20CRH specialises

in handling and packaging heavy items. Their lightweight design and compact structure allow for seamless integration into even the most restricted workspaces, maximising operational flexibility.

The MELFA RH-CRH series robots are equipped with innovative battery-less motors, which removes the need for periodic battery replacements.

This reduces maintenance downtime and costs and effectively eliminates the risk of losing the robot's positional origin (home position) due to battery exhaustion.



**A**s a result, the robots deliver consistent reliability, even during long production schedules or after extended downtime periods.

These improvements to productivity are amplified by a simplified design that significantly reduces the number of components, resulting in up to 69 percent weight reduction compared to previous models.

This lowers installation and facility costs while enhancing long-term operational reliability, continuous operation performance, and overall productivity. Furthermore, the integrated wiring and air piping within the robot arm reduce wiring complexity and simplify

setup.

The MELFA RH-CRH series also offers advanced functionality, tracking operations, support for 3D and 2D vision sensors, and force sensing, ensuring precise performance for high-speed tasks.

Compatibility with CC-Link IE Field Basic, a gigabit industrial Ethernet network, enables seamless integration into existing production networks and Mitsubishi Electric Factory Automation products, making it ideal for digital transformation in manufacturing.

Its optional safety features ensure secure operation in collaborative environments.

Keisuke Matsumura, development section team leader, says: "With the MELFA RH-CRH series, we've created a solution that delivers exceptional performance and addresses the practical challenges our customers face in modern manufacturing.

"These robots alone demonstrate our commitment to innovation by helping manufacturers enhance productivity and efficiency.

"Additionally, when combined with other Mitsubishi Electric's software advances – such as MELSOFT VIXIO enabled AI visual inspection, the creation of digital twins using MELSOFT Gemini – the expansion of automation, additional cost savings and system benefits can be achieved."





# ZEBRA TECHNOLOGIES BUYS PHOTONEO BUSINESS FROM BRIGHTPICK ZEBRA TECHNOLOGIES BUYS PHOTONEO BUSINESS FROM BRIGHTPICK

**P**hotoneo Brightpick, a provider of 3D vision and AI robotics solutions, has closed the sale of Photoneo to Zebra Technologies, a specialist in digitizing and automating warehouse workflows.

Photoneo, the former sister company of Brightpick under the Photoneo Brightpick Group umbrella, is a provider of robotic vision sensors and intelligence software.

The Photoneo Brightpick Group has been renamed Brightpick and will continue operating as a separate entity focused on developing and deploying AI robots to automate warehouse operations.

The majority of proceeds from the sale will be dedicated to accelerating Brightpick's deployment of its AI robots across the US and Europe. To date, Brightpick has secured a total of \$47 million in funding.

Jan Zizka, founder and CEO at Photoneo Brightpick, says: "This transaction produced significant capital to reinvest in Brightpick, while providing some return to shareholders.

"With Brightpick's 2025 production capacity fully booked, this funding enables

us to scale manufacturing and deployment to meet the growing demand for our AI robots, expand to new markets, and serve even more customers."

Brightpick is a provider of warehouse automation solutions for order fulfillment. The Brightpick solution takes just weeks to deploy and enables companies to reduce their fulfillment labor to a minimum.

Brightpick Autopicker, the company's award-winning flagship robot, is the only mobile robot in the world that robotically picks and consolidates orders directly in warehouse aisles, like a human with a cart.

Last month the company announced Brightpick Giraffe, an innovative robot capable of reaching heights up to six meters, along with the first two US customers of the new system.

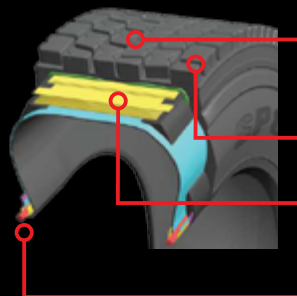
With this advancement, Brightpick users can now achieve up to three times the warehouse storage density of manual operations and double the density compared to the previous Brightpick solution.



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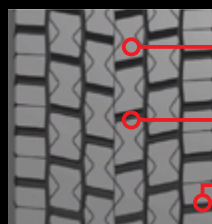
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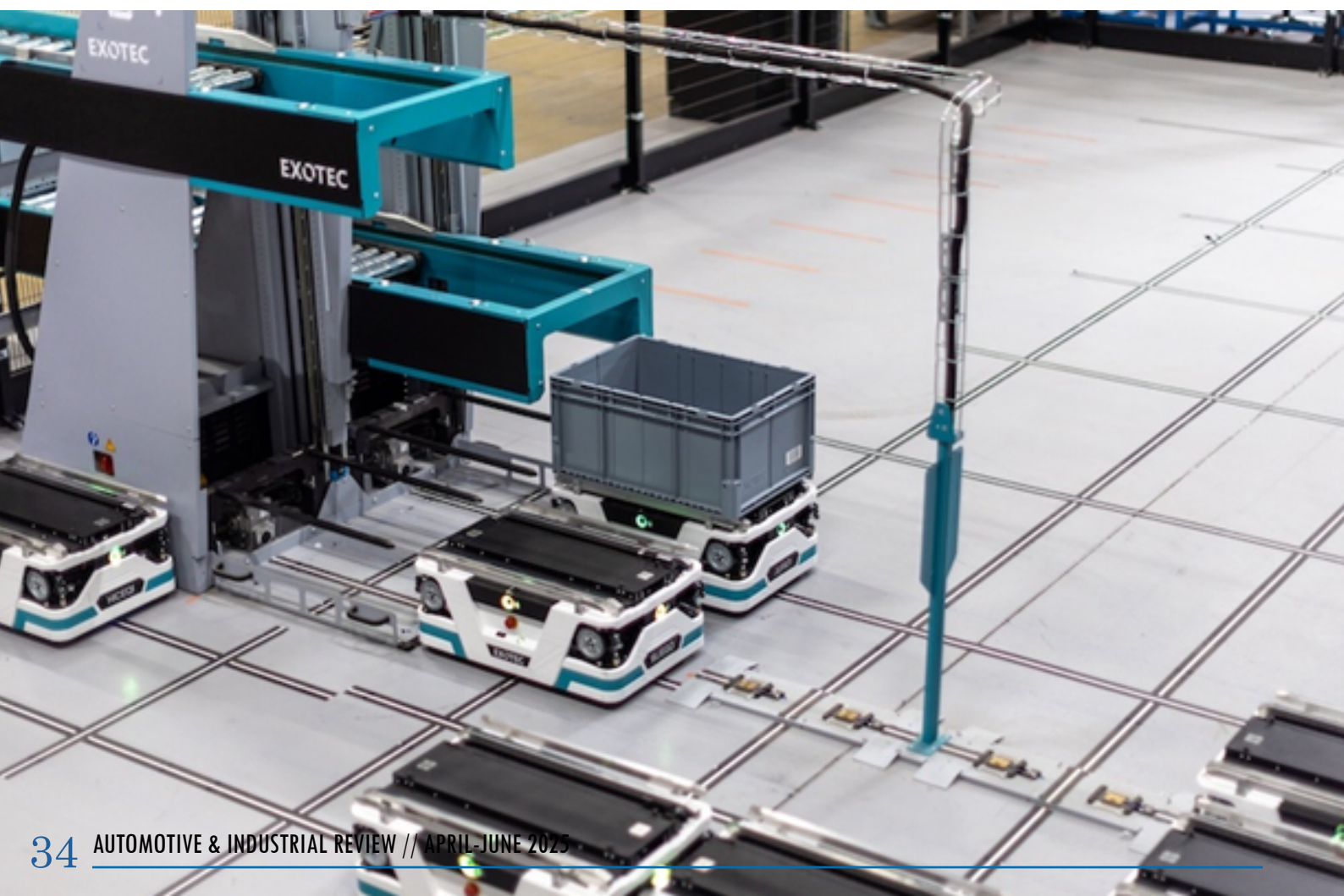
# BELGIAN ONLINE GROCER TO IMPLEMENT EXOTEC AUTOMATED WAREHOUSE SYSTEM

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**Exotec, the warehouse robotics specialist, has been selected by Collect&Go, Colruyt Group's online grocery service, to further automate one of its warehouses in Londerzeel, Belgium.**

**The installation of Exotec's next generation of Skypod system will aid the Belgian food retail market leader with the ongoing optimisation of its online grocery picking process.**

**Collect&Go has more than 200 collection points throughout Belgium, reaching more than half of the country's households and ensuring all Belgians have access to the pickup and home delivery service.**





**T**he Collect&Go service has been operating for 25 years, experiencing tremendous growth in that time.

Tom Malfroid, supply chain manager at Collect&Go, says: "At Colruyt Group, we are constantly focusing on innovation, and it goes without saying that we're always looking to optimise our processes.

"Colruyt currently picks in two different ways – both in our low-price stores and in our two e-commerce distribution centres in Londerzeel and Erpe-Mere.

"Today, we're proud to announce the installation of Exotec's Next Generation Skypod system in Londerzeel to further automate our picking process.

"Soon, dozens of Skypods will be operating in the Londerzeel distribution centre; warehouse robots working in hand-in-hand to support employees in picking groceries.

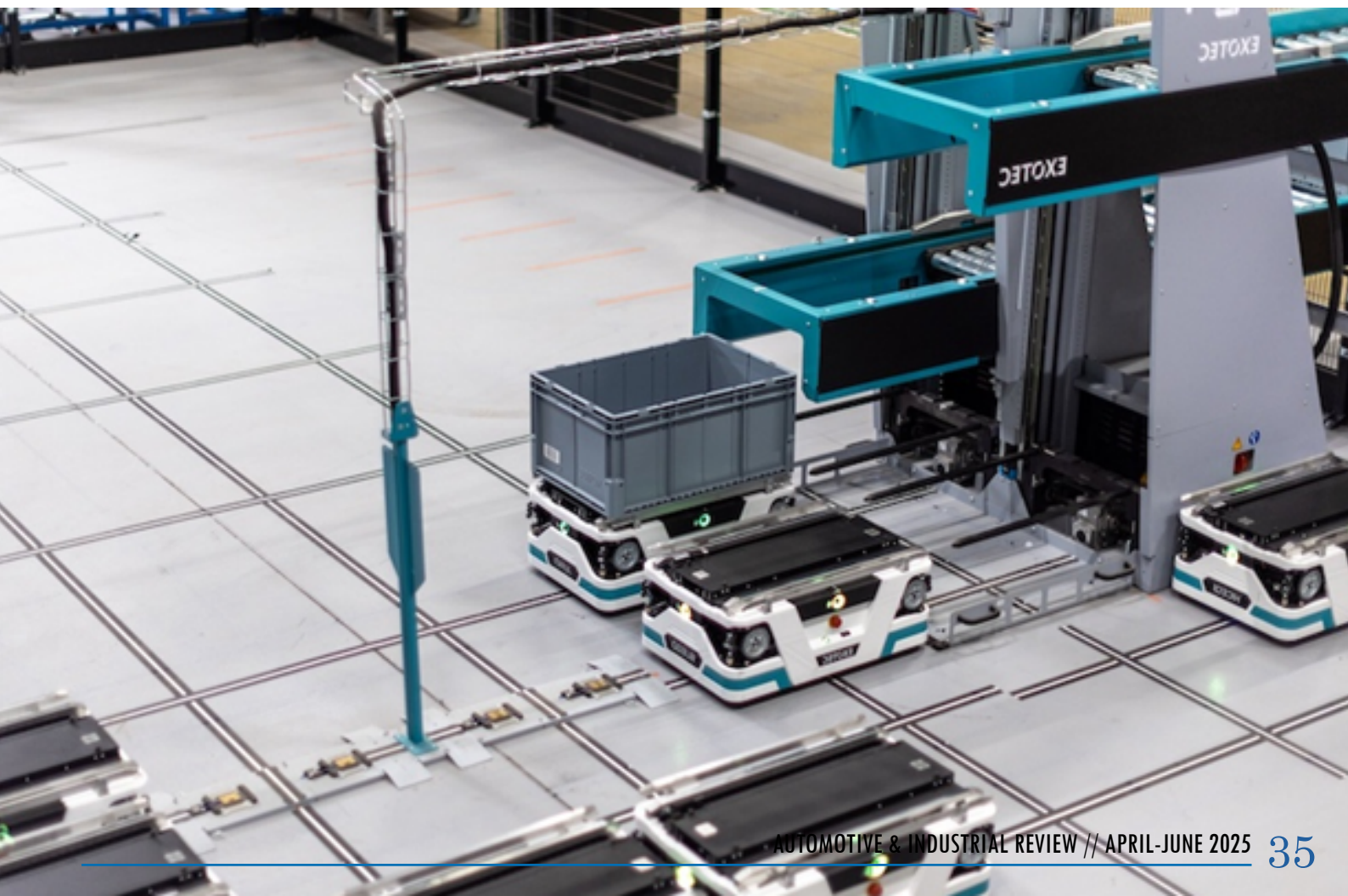
"When we adopt an innovation like

this, we believe it's important that humans and machines are working collaboratively.

"We want to ease the workload of our employees to ensure that they can focus on the tasks that make a difference. With the adoption of Exotec's Next Generation of Skypod system, this combination will come together beautifully.

"With the introduction of the Next Generation of Skypod, Colruyt expects productivity to increase by 35 percent, and we specifically chose Exotec because of their reputation for reliability, innovative technology, and scalability."

Wim Vermeir, senior sales executive at Exotec, says: "We are proud to contribute to Collect&Go's automation journey. Our Next Generation of Skypod system is designed to address the challenges of retailers like Colruyt Group in an efficient and scalable way."





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# IDEKO SETS A NEW STANDARD IN AEROSPACE COMPOSITE MANUFACTURING

**S**panish technology centre Ideko says it is pushing the boundaries of innovation to enhance competitiveness and optimize the aerospace industry's value chain.

Its commitment to progress will be on full display at the upcoming edition of the JEC World international trade fair, held in Paris from March 4 to 6.

As a leading showcase for composite materials, JEC World will serve as

the stage for Ideko's presentation of a fuselage demonstrator for a new hybrid-electric regional aircraft.

This demonstrator is a tangible example of the R&D efforts undertaken as part of the European Herfuse project within the Clean Aviation program, highlighting Ideko's dedication to developing advanced technologies that optimize manufacturing processes in the aerospace sector.

Pioneering automated manufacturing for aerospace composites. Specifically, Ideko has applied its cutting-edge Automated Dry Material Placement (ADMP) technology to manufacture the aircraft's side panels using carbon fiber fabrics. Over the past years, the research center has continuously evolved ADMP technology for the lamination of dry multiaxial materials, enhancing its versatility, digitalization level, quality control, and robustness.



**T**he demonstrator's manufacturing cell, located at Ideko's facilities, is specially designed for the production of large and complex aerospace structures, with a capability of producing components up to 10 meters in length.

Equipped with state-of-the-art lamination heads, this fully automated process improves efficiency and precision in material handling, reducing production times while ensuring quality at every stage, explains Peio Olaskoaga, Ideko's aeronautics project manager.

As a complement to this innovative industrial lamination system, Ideko has also developed a new injectable thermoplastic resin for aerospace structures, providing a comprehensive

solution that integrates automation, efficiency, and sustainability to meet the industry's evolving needs.

**Real-time process monitoring**  
At JEC World 2025, Ideko will also highlight its expertise in real-time digitalization and monitoring of key composite manufacturing processes, including lamination, preforming, infusion, and curing, ensuring superior production quality control.

As part of the European Infinite project, Ideko is leading the development of a wireless monitoring system designed to track both the structural health and manufacturing process of aerospace components throughout their entire lifecycle.

This initiative reinforces Ideko's role as a pioneer

in innovative solutions that enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the aerospace sector.

The Infinite project was prominently featured in the international projects area of JEC World 2025, with a dedicated presentation scheduled for Tuesday, March 4.

**Advancing assembly, machining and composite manufacturing**  
Ideko's innovation proposals at the JEC World 2025 trade fair extend beyond materials and processes to include the assembly and machining of large aerospace components.

To achieve this, Ideko has developed a collaborative robotic photogrammetry system, which optimizes both speed and precision in assembly processes.





**O**man Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) has signed agreements with nine Omani small and medium enterprises (SMEs), awarding contracts worth OMR 1.45 million (approximately \$3.8 million) across multiple sectors, including logistics, technology, infrastructure, and retail.

The agreements, with durations ranging from one to five years, reaffirm OOMCO's commitment to supporting local businesses, enhancing In-Country Value (ICV), and contributing to Oman Vision 2040.

The signing ceremony took place at OOMCO's headquarters on February 18, 2025, bringing together representatives from the awarded SMEs.

These agreements provide sustainable growth opportunities for local enterprises, enabling them to expand their expertise and enhance their competitiveness in the market.

Commenting on the initiative, Tarik Mohammed Al Junaidi, CEO of Oman Oil Marketing Company, says: "Our partnership with Omani SMEs underscores our dedication to fostering local talent and strengthening the national economy."



"By awarding contracts across diverse industries, we are not only creating business opportunities but also driving innovation, efficiency, and sustainable growth in line with Oman Vision 2040."

The awarded contracts cover a wide range of industries and services, supporting business development across retail, technology, engineering, and facility management.

In the retail and customer service sector, the agreements include maintenance services for Ahlain shops and the introduction of a Pick-Up and Drop-Off (PUDO) logistics service, enhancing convenience for customers.

Digital transformation initiatives include the integration of a QR-based ordering platform at Café Amazon and the implementation of Know Your Customer (KYC) verification within the OOMCO Mobile App, further strengthening the company's digital capabilities.

In the engineering and infrastructure sector, the contracts cover the installation

of above-ground steel tanks as well as fire engine troubleshooting and maintenance, ensuring the highest standards of safety and operational excellence.

Facility management and maintenance agreements include essential upkeep for OOMCO's headquarters and the supply of receipt paper rolls for service stations across the network.

This initiative not only strengthens the role of local businesses in Oman's economy but also supports job creation and long-term SME development.

By integrating digital transformation, customer convenience, and operational efficiency into its projects, OOMCO continues to set new benchmarks for corporate responsibility and economic impact.

As a key player in Oman's fuel marketing sector, OOMCO remains committed to fostering sustainable business partnerships that drive local enterprise growth while ensuring the highest standards of service and innovation.





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