

A long journey: 80 low-cost robots from igus for research at Indian higher-education institutions

German-Indian knowledge transfer with easy-to-operate robot arms for simple automation tasks

Cologne, 17 January 2019 – Robotics and automation technology is an important subject within higher-education institutions in India and not only in Germany. The governments of the two countries are working together intensively in order to boost research in these areas. In response to the Indian government's search for simple robot systems for teaching purposes, robolink, the cost-effective modular system from igus, was so convincing that over 80 robolink arms for 40 Indian educational facilities were ordered. During a workshop in Aachen, professors from India gained direct, first-hand experience of how easy it is to use the low-cost robots from igus.

Increasing collaboration between Germany and India – The governments of the two countries have committed themselves to this goal. These efforts were intensified when the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, came on a visit to meet Angela Merkel in Berlin in July last year. With 1.3 billion inhabitants, said Merkel, India is a strong partner for Germany. It was now the time to implement the declaration of intent that the two countries had signed with the aim of consolidating their cooperation with each other. Closer collaboration in the areas of research and teaching is one important aspect of this declaration. The topic of robotics and automation technology is a new field of interest at higher-education institutions in India and, in some cases, has only been explored to a very limited extent. Vangapandu Venkatanagaraju is working on behalf of the Indian government in order to set up the knowledge-transfer process between Indian and German engineers. When visiting Automatica and looking for robots to be used for teaching purposes, his attention was drawn to robolink, the cost-effective modular system of the motion plastics specialist igus. This led to the idea of equipping universities and colleges with 80 robot arms in the area of automation technology.

Easy to use thanks to intuitive software

The higher-education institutions are to learn how simple automation tasks in industry can be performed with the robot arms. 40 Indian educational facilities are each to receive two robots: the robolink DCi with four axes, integrated control system and electric magnets, as well as a robolink robot arm with four axes and pneumatic suction cups. In the framework of a delegation trip, 24 Indian professors familiarised themselves with the robolink systems. The trip was organised by APS GmbH. The company has dedicated itself to the transfer of robotics knowledge and research between the countries. The professors were trained by the igus low-cost robotics experts, Alexander Mühlens and Kai Schmitz, during an event in the Aachen Digital Capability Center. Dr. Christian Meyer, the developer of the robolink DCi software from Commonplace Robotics, instructed the professors on how to use the intuitive software. "After additional *Train the Trainer* webinars, the trained professors will teach their students how robolink can be used in industrial applications", explains Meyer. After only a brief explanation, the professors were able to define some movements of the robot and see their success live. Further projects such as the use of low-cost robotics in the area of textile technology are already being planned in conjunction with APS GmbH.

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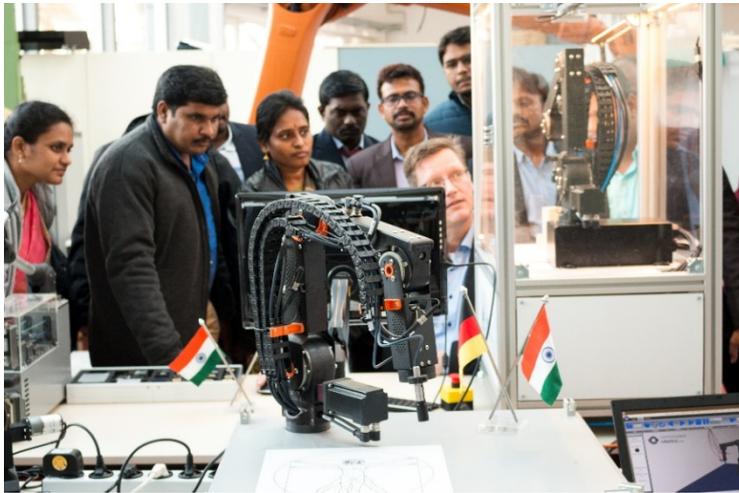
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ABOUT IGUS:

igus GmbH is a globally leading manufacturer of energy chain systems and polymer plain bearings. The Cologne-based family business has offices in 35 countries and employs 3.800 people around the world. In 2017, igus generated a turnover of 690 million euros with motion plastics, plastic components for moving applications. igus operates the largest test laboratories and factories in its sector to offer customers quick turnaround times on innovative products and solutions tailored to their needs.

The terms "igus", "Apiro", "chainflex", "CFRIP", "conprotect", "CTD", "drylin", "dry-tech", "dryspin", "easy chain", "e-chain", "e-chain systems", "e-ketten", "e-kettensysteme", "e-skin", "flizz", "ibow", "igear", "iglidur", "igubal", "kineKIT", "manus", "motion plastics", "pikchain", "plastics for longer life", "readychain", "readycable", "ReBeL", "speedigus", "triflex", "robolink", and "xiros" are protected by trademark laws in the Federal Republic of Germany and internationally, where applicable.

Image captions:



Picture PM0119-1

During a workshop in Aachen, the Indian professors learned directly from the software developer how easy it was to put the robotlink low-cost robot arms from igus into operation. (Source: igus GmbH)



Picture PM0119-2

Robotics knowledge transfer from Germany to India (f.l.t.r): Dr. Christian Meyer from Commonplace Robotics, Alexander Mühlens from igus GmbH, Prof. Dr. Günther Starke from APS GmbH, Vangapandu Venkatanagaraju appointee of the Indian government, Dr. Till Quadflieg from APS GmbH and Kai Schmitz from igus GmbH. (Source: igus GmbH)