

PRESS RELEASE

Blackbird Robotersysteme celebrates 15th anniversary

The experts in remote laser welding are further expanding their global presence through cooperation on sales and service

Garching, Germany, September 6, 2023 – Blackbird Robotersysteme GmbH, manufacturer of system solutions for remote laser welding, is continuing to grow as it looks back on 15 years of success. During this time, the company has become established as a reliable partner to the automotive industry, particularly in the body-in-white (BIW) and seat production segment. Since 2015, the laser welding expert has also been sought after on the international stage as a solution provider in the growth market of electric mobility, to produce batteries and electric motors (in hairpin welding, for example). To accelerate its growth and expand its global presence, the company embarked last year on a partnership with ABICOR BINZEL, a leader in developing and producing gas-shielded welding torches for manual and robot welding. The cooperative relationship for sales and customer service extends to numerous markets outside the German-speaking countries and has already proven its value and impact in various projects.



Founded in 2008 as a startup and spin-off of TUM (Technical University of Munich), Blackbird pioneered the development of controls for ‘on-the-fly’ laser welding. The team realized at the time that laser welding could be used with robots to achieve dramatic productivity gains in industrial manufacturing, especially the automotive industry. To enable precise processing of

a laser scanner mounted on a robot, the robot’s path must be incorporated into the controls of the scan system. Exactly this on-the-fly (OTF) laser welding has been perfected.

The company has forged ahead with expanding on this core competency, which is what makes Blackbird an acknowledged expert for remote laser welding today. The services offered include smart control technology for scan systems and the scan heads themselves, which can be incorporated into laser cells to interact with handling devices such as robots or linear axes. Extremely user-friendly software and supplementary process monitoring solutions help to ensure that users can dependably achieve optimum processing results.

Pioneering spirit, flexibility, and mastery of big data

The company has retained that same spirit of discovery to this day, working closely with universities, research institutes, and industry partners through various cooperative research initiatives. As one sign of its innovative drive, the company won third place in the Innovation Laser Award 2022 competition for a laser scan solution with integrated OCT (optical coherence tomography) process monitoring. Existing clients include major players in the automotive sector, leading battery manufacturers, and well-known clients from other industrial sectors that value the mid-sized company's flexibility and special expertise in high-speed welding.

“The secret to our success is twofold. First, we listen closely to our clients, and over the years, we have developed products that meet and exceed their requirements and expectations – in pre-, in-, and post-process monitoring, for example. Second, we use AI, artificial intelligence, to play a leading role in analyzing and preparing large volumes of data,” says Karl Christian Messer, General Manager of Blackbird Robotersysteme GmbH. “We are proud of everything we have accomplished as a team in the past 15 years, but we don't want to stop there. We see our biggest growth markets as lying in the fields of electric mobility, battery production in general, and hydrogen as an alternative energy source.”

The company has about 50 employees in Garching, near Munich, Germany, and in Shanghai, China. Thanks to flat hierarchies, it enjoys ultra-fast time to market and is in an excellent position for future growth. Another important driver is the cooperative relationship established in 2022 with ABICOR BINZEL, which encompasses the fields of sales and customer service in numerous international markets.

“ABICOR BINZEL is known for being a technology leader in the area of arc welding. We also aim to lead the pack in technological terms in laser joining processes going forward. That makes Blackbird, with its high-end remote laser optics, the perfect partner for us,” says Emil Schubert, CEO of ABICOR BINZEL.

Printable images are available at
<https://www.blackbird-robotics.de/unternehmen/presse/bildarchiv>

Trade fair calendar

Schweissen & Schneiden 2023 in Essen, Germany, September 11 - 15, 2023 –

Hall 1, Booth D20

hy-fcells in Stuttgart, Germany, September 13 - 14, 2023 – **Hall 4, Booth A25**

About Blackbird Robot Systems:

Blackbird Robotersysteme GmbH manufacturers system solutions for remote laser welding with scanning optics. The mirror-based beam deflection units can be seamlessly integrated into industrial manufacturing systems, particularly robot cells. Blackbird's core competencies include the development of powerful control technology, intuitive user software and additional process monitoring solutions.

Combined with 2D and 3D scan systems of the sister company SCANLAB, Blackbird offers machine and plant manufacturers a broad range of highly efficient, pre-integrated solutions for series production in automotive manufacturing, the electro mobility sector and in numerous other industrial sectors.

About ABICOR BINZEL

Alexander Binzel Schweißtechnik GmbH & Co. KG is the world market leader in the development and production of shielding gas welding torches for manual and robotic welding. 38 subsidiaries and more than 20 exclusive distribution partners provide welding technology products and system solutions to every corner of the world under the umbrella brand ABICOR BINZEL – supported by production facilities in Germany, the USA, Brazil, India and China.

Started in 1945 as a wholesale business for welding equipment, ABICOR BINZEL brought many decisive developments and new standards to the market. Many of them are patented product developments – made in Germany.

Blackbird Robotersysteme GmbH

Eva Jubitz
Carl-Zeiss-Str. 5
85748 Garching
Germany

Phone +49 89 307 484 700
Email news@blackbird-robotics.de
Website www.blackbird-robotics.de
www.scanlab.de