

*For business and technology editors*

## **ABB Robotics European Arc Welding Center**

*On January 2, 2007, ABB Robotics, the world's leading robot manufacturer, will open its European Arc Welding Center in Ostrava, Czech Republic. The Center is a result of a partnership between ABB Robotics and Kocks Robotics divisions who will now become a fully integrated part of ABB s.r.o., Czech Republic.*

The Center will develop, manufacture and deliver standardized arc welding cells for customers in Europe and it will be managed by the present General Manager of Kocks, Ostrava, Mr. Ivo Latal.

The initial target is a production run rate of 100 cells, which will make this unit one of the biggest players within this field in Europe.

ABB Robotics operates through a network of over 5,000 employees based in some 100 countries around the world. There are more than 140,000 ABB robots installed globally.

Kocks long time experience in building arc welding cells, combined with ABB's knowledge in Robotics and arc welding applications, will make this new unit a highly competitive player in the European market. With the location in the Czech Republic, ABB will also get a cost-efficient and highly productive unit.

ABB Robotics is also the largest supplier of industrial robots in the Czech Republic with an estimated market share of around 50%. The market is operated by 40 employees who are representing a broad area of competence when serving customers within most segments of the manufacturing industry.

Ostrava area is one of the fastest growing industrial areas in the Czech Republic with numerous international manufacturing companies being established.

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