Press release

Dürr installs first automatic painting line in Uruguay

Sao Paulo, Brazil, 6 May 2021 – Dürr installs an automatic painting line for its customer Nordex, which is based in Montevideo, Uruguay. Nordex has been producing vehicles in Uruguay since 1962 for different OEMs.

To achieve best results in its painting processes, Nordex Uruguay has contracted Dürr Brazil to supply a fully automated painting line – a milestone for the local industry. As this is the first automated painting line in the country it was also supported by governmental and municipal agencies. Start of production is planned to be in May 2021. The Dürr team managed the project successfully despite all challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Painting process

Dürr’s automatic painting line starts after pretreatment of the car bodies. In a cleaning cabin the body is prepared thoroughly. This process ensures, that the vehicle enters the line without any impurities. After this initial step, the inner car body is painted manually, according to the customer’s requirements. For this process, Dürr’s **Eco**Gun spray guns come to use. Subsequently, the exterior is painted automatically by four Dürr painting robots **Eco**RP. This painting process, in which different coatings can be applied, is followed by a flash-off period during which the solvents can evaporate from the surface. The following clear coat application is for protecting the paint and brightening the color. Again, the interior is painted manually, and the exterior is painted by two Dürr **Eco**RP robots.

While the vehicles are being transported to the oven, there is another flash-off period. The oven has a size of 36 meters and a temperature of about 180 degrees. In this stage the applied painting hardens. Finally, the vehicles pass through a cooling tunnel to lower the temperature. This step provides more safety and ergonomics to the operator who receives the car body at the end of the painting process.

Smart painting technology

In both cabins, base coat and clear coat cabin, Dürr’s unique painting technology allows the robots to identify each body and to configure the paint setting accordingly. In the paint supply room, eight groups of tanks – six base coats, one clear coat and one solvent – automatically provide the corresponding materials for manual as well as for automated application. A heat exchanger controls the processing temperature at any time and guarantees optimal results. With Dürr’s painting technology the customer’s requirements on quality and precision are fully achieved.

Sustainability

In addition to the application system, Dürr provides a Wet Scrubber System. This consists of a closed water circuit, installed below the application booth, that captures surplus paint. The contaminated water goes through a separation and filtration system, where the paint is chemically separated from the water to be used again in the process.

**Assembling**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the installation of the painting line was even more challenging. However, Dürr followed all safety and prevention protocols to meet Nordex’ requirements and assembled this important line in time.

“This project was challenging, mainly due to the pandemic. All areas of the company were involved, we worked together overcoming all obstacles, not only technical, but also with the permits to enter the country, due to all additional restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The process has been enriching and we have a very committed team doing work with extreme quality and efficiency. We are very happy to be part of this very important project for Nordex,”commented Guilherme Custódio, Dürr project manager.

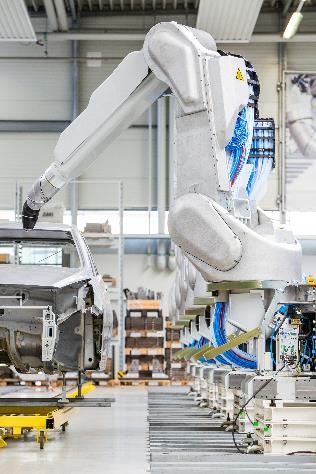


Figure 1: Pre-commissioning of robots at Dürr’s headquarter in Germany.

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Figure 2: Dürr team at the construction site at Nordex

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**Figure 3:** At the construction site of Nordex plant

**About Dürr**

The Dürr Group is one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms with extensive expertise in automation and digitalization/Industry 4.0. Its products, systems and services enable highly efficient and resource-saving manufacturing processes in different industries. The Dürr Group supplies sectors like the automotive industry, mechanical engineering, chemical, pharmaceutical, medical technology and woodworking industries. It generated sales of € 3.32 billion in 2020. The company has more than 17,000 employees and 120 business locations in 33 countries. Since February 2021, the majority-owned automation specialist Teamtechnik has also been part of the Group. The Dürr Group operates in the market with the brands Dürr, Schenck and HOMAG and with five divisions:

* **Paint and Final Assembly Systems:** paint shops as well as final assembly, testing and filling technology for the automotive industry, assembly and test systems for medical devices
* **Application Technology:** robot technologies for the automated application of paint, sealants and adhesives
* **Clean Technology Systems:** air pollution control, noise abatement systems and coating systems for battery electrodes
* **Measuring and Process Systems:** balancing equipment and diagnostic technology
* **Woodworking Machinery and Systems:** machinery and equipment for the woodworking industry

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