



Press release Communiqué de presse

Production line for COVID-19 diagnostic tests: Bosch Australia orders 144 KUKA robots for Ellume

Augsburg, May 2022 – The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly changed our daily lives. Diagnostic testing remains critical for containment. So are Ellume's tests. The Australian diagnostics company is expanding its automated production with 144 KUKA robots, which will be used in a total of 27 state-of-the-art assembly lines.

Brisbane-based Ellume has developed COVID-19 rapid tests that are used in laboratories, doctors' offices and by consumers themselves. To meet the huge global demand, the diagnostics company, with the help of Bosch Australia Manufacturing Solutions (BAMS), has been relying on automated production lines with 16 KR AGILUS from KUKA since 2020. Now Ellume is expanding its production capacity – with 144 more KUKA robots.

Largest KUKA project to date in Australia

Bosch's Australian division is expanding large-scale production for COVID-19 rapid tests at Ellume – following the already successful collaboration in 2020. The goal is 27 state-of-the-art automated assembly lines to increase production capacity. The 144 KUKA robots ordered for this purpose are from the KR AGILUS series and are designed for maximum operating speeds – crucial for the Ellume project, which has a capacity of nine parts per second. Three lines for the Brisbane plant have already been successfully installed and full production has begun.

In addition, another completely new plant with 24 production lines is being built in the United States in Frederick, Maryland. The first delivery of US lines is currently being installed, with the last lines to follow by mid-2022. With a volume in the low single-digit million euro range, this is the largest KUKA project for an Australian company to date.

KUKA

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"Fast, accurate diagnostics more important than ever"

KUKA robots pick up all the individual parts and assemble the tests. This also includes an end-of-line testing system that communicates via Bluetooth, thus ensuring the high quality of the test kits.

"We have spent the last decade perfecting our technology," said Dr. Sean Parsons, CEO and founder of Ellume. "In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of rapid, accurate diagnostics has never been more important. Ellume is pleased to partner with Bosch to bring their world-leading automation expertise to our manufacturing process. This will allow Ellume to manufacture best-in-class diagnostics that can be relied on in the healthcare industry."



KUKA

KUKA is a global automation corporation with sales of around 3.3 billion euro and roughly 14,000 employees. The company is headquartered in Augsburg, Germany. As one of the world's leading suppliers of intelligent automation solutions, KUKA offers customers everything they need from a single source: from robots and cells to fully automated systems and their networking in markets such as automotive, electronics, metal & plastic, consumer goods, e-commerce/retail and healthcare. (As at December 31, 2021)

BAMS

Bosch Australia Manufacturing Solutions (BAMS) provides 135 years of Bosch quality and expertise to Australian manufacturers. BAMS specializes in automation and robotics, production line systems, Industry 4.0, and test & measurement systems. Drawing on experience and knowledge from across the globe, BAMS customers receive manufacturing solutions that are innovative and deliver world-class results.

Ellume

Ellume is a digital diagnostics company that develops, manufactures, and commercializes high-performance, connected products for healthcare professionals and consumers. It is at the forefront of accurate, rapid and accessible testing that is integral to today's COVID-19 response and will help ensure the world is prepared for the next infectious disease pandemic. Ellume's key focus is on the detection of common infectious diseases which affect the global population across all diagnostic settings; at-home, point-of-care and in-laboratory. Ellume has a global COVID-19 and TB partnership with QIAGEN, and a range of professional products under its ellume-lab brand. Ellume is committed to developing high-quality digital diagnostics that the world can rely on in a health crisis. For further information visit ellumehealth.com.