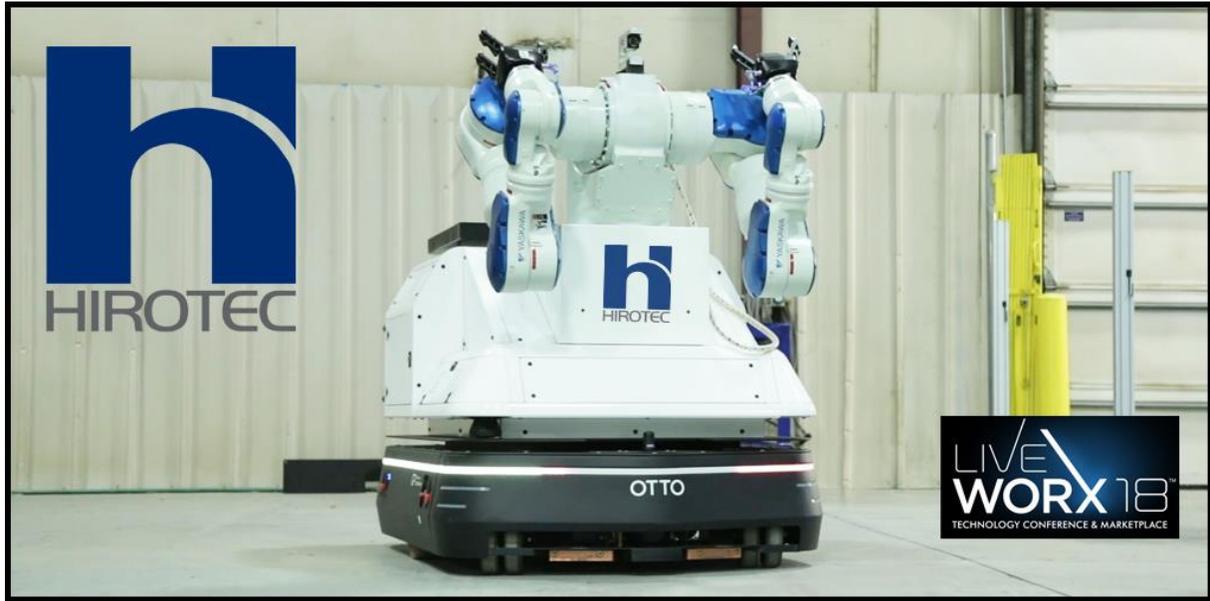


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For Immediate Release

HIROTEC AMERICA Announced It Has Partnered with PTC to Bring X-Factory, a Smart Manufacturing System, to LiveWorx 2018



Auburn Hills, MI., June 4, 2018 – HIROTEC Group, a global automotive supplier specializing in the production of body-in-white closures, exhaust systems, and closure manufacturing equipment, announced it has partnered with PTC and other suppliers to develop the X-Factory™, a revolutionary smart manufacturing experience that will be displayed at the LiveWorx® Digital Transformation Conference from June 17th -20th in Boston, Massachusetts.

Through the use of HIROTEC’s Mobile Robot, PTC’s X-Factory will come alive as a compelling immersive experience, utilizing role-based applications built with the ThingWorx® industrial innovation platform and Vuforia® augmented reality platform. X-Factory takes a user on a comprehensive, full-lifecycle journey, from Engineering to Manufacturing, Testing, and Packaging while engaging with business systems, smart tools, collaborative robots and other equipment.

X-Factory will utilize HIROTEC’s Mobile Robot that features an OTTO self-driving vehicle and a Yaskawa Motoman dual-arm manipulator with a goal to achieve total lights-out manufacturing for 365-day, 24/7 operation.

“X-Factory has been a great opportunity and a wonderful learning experience for HIROTEC, and I thank PTC for inviting us to partner with them,” said Katsu Uno, HIROTEC AMERICA Chairman and CEO. “Advanced Robotics is a key enabler for Industry 4.0, and as it continues to propel the manufacturing industry forward, HIROTEC is proud to be a part of this 4th industrial revolution.”

“HIROTEC is a premier example of an industrial manufacturer on the forefront of digital transformation, and we are delighted with our ongoing partnership. I would also like to thank the HIROTEC team for their important contribution and participation at X-Factory during our LiveWorx event,” said Howard Heppelmann, GM, Connected Solutions, PTC.

In addition to the X-Factory demonstration, HIROTEC will also be speaking with attendees on the benefits of utilizing Industry 4.0 solutions.

For more information on the X-Factory and LiveWorx, please visit: www.hirotecamerica.com.

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About HIROTEC

For over 85 years, HIROTEC has been the leader in providing world-class body-in-white closures, exhaust systems, and highly flexible closure manufacturing solutions to customers around the globe. With a worldwide headquarters in Hiroshima, Japan, HIROTEC has grown to include 26 facilities in eight countries. Focusing on automation technology, HIROTEC is utilizing advanced robotics and the latest Industry 4.0 innovations to become a leader in smart factory deployment. For more information, please visit www.hirotecamerica.com.

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