

SEW-EURODRIVE (Pty) Ltd. drives assembly-line extension at major automotive manufacturer

13 February 2019: The MOVITRANS® contactless energy transfer system from SEW-EURODRIVE (Pty) Ltd., in conjunction with its MOVIPRO® SDC decentralised drive, position, and application controller, have played a critical role in an assembly-line extension at a major automotive producer in Port Elizabeth.

The big advantage of the MOVITRANS® system is that it is based on contactless energy transfer. In this system, electrical energy is transferred without contact from a fixed conductor to one or more mobile consumers. The electromagnetic connection is made via an air gap. Not being subject to wear has the added benefit of it being maintenance-free. In addition, this type of power supply is emission-free, and therefore environmentally-friendly.

“MOVITRANS® is the ideal supply system for all mobile applications, and has been tested according to BGV B11. It is perfect for equipment that has to cover long distances at high speeds, for example, or if maintenance-free operation is required. It is also suited for applications in sensitive environments where outside contaminants are not permitted, and in wet and damp environments,” SEW-EURODRIVE (Pty) Ltd. Electronics Support Technician **Juandré La Cock** explains.

Wherever a trolley/skillet (conveyor) system is implemented, such as with an automotive assembly line, a custom-designed drive concept is required that must correspond to the necessary load-bearing capacity, the desired transport speed, the existing space restrictions, and the specific ambient conditions of the application.

Here the MOVIPRO® SDC is an ideal solution for both horizontal and vertical trolley/skillet (conveyor) applications. It not only integrates all necessary functions, but allows for decentralised installation of up to 15 kW. The solution is characterised by its design robustness, especially in terms of reliability and precise positioning requirements. With its modular, standardised design and freely-configurable software components, this decentralised drive and

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positioning control system facilitates the integration of numerous functions, while reducing the complexity of the machine or system.

At the Port Elizabeth plant, SEW-EURODRIVE (Pty) Ltd. was required to replace an existing MOVITRANS® system installed originally in 2006 in order to be able to add a further four skillets to the existing line. This was done in order to upgrade the technology to the latest iteration developed by the research-and-development department in Germany, La Cock explains.

The MOVIPRO® SDC provides wireless communication for the MOVITRANS® system, based on WiFi routers. Adding to the complexity of the solution required is the fact that the 30 different stations along the assembly line have different height requirements. "This means we had to design a height table into the system," La Cock points out.

SEW-EURODRIVE (Pty) Ltd.'s scope of work on this project was not only to commission the extension of the assembly line, but to ensure that the entire plant was up-to-date with the latest technology. "This involved resetting all of the MOVIPROs®, replacing and extending the Leaky WiFi cable, and then replacing the MOVITRANS® system with the latest version," La Cock highlights. He adds that, since its original installation in 2006, the entire system has functioned flawlessly.

While SEW-EURODRIVE (Pty) Ltd. **MAXOLUTION**® has developed products and solutions specifically for the automotive industry, La Cock stresses that the system supplied for the Port Elizabeth project has been customised specifically for the automotive manufacturer. "This demonstrates our flexibility in being able to adapt to specific client requirements, and also how we ensure our long-standing clients remain up-to-date with the latest developments," La Cock concludes.

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