



COMAU UK PROVIDES BATTERY MANUFACTURING LINE FOR THE PIONEERING UK BATTERY INDUSTRIALISATION CENTRE

The state-of-the-art battery production development facility enables the scale-up of UK battery manufacturing

Turin, April 8, 2021 – Comau has been selected by the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC) to develop and deploy a semi-automated battery module and battery pack assembly line for the publicly-funded ‘open-access’ battery production development facility. UKBIC is an important part of the UK’s Faraday Battery Challenge program, which is designed to fast track the development of cost-effective, high-performance, durable, safe and recyclable batteries. The Comau-developed Module and Pack assembly line is the first of UKBIC’s innovative battery manufacturing equipment to have been installed, commissioned and available for its customers to use.

One of the unique elements of this project was the requirement for agile flexibility, which will allow a range of Modules & Packs to be manufactured at a single premise. The final facility developed by Comau UK has overcome this challenge, giving UKBIC the ability to support a wide range of customer requirements without the need for major process or site changes.

Working in collaboration with engineers from UKBIC, Comau provided all the necessary technology and know-how to manage the entire battery Module & Pack manufacturing process, from cylindrical cell preparation and pouch cell stacking to the battery pack assembly. The project, which highlights Comau’s continued investments in the electrification sector, leverages the global leader’s 45+ years of expertise in automation and digitalization technologies.

To meet the demand for UK-produced batteries, which is expected to reach a total of 440 gigawatt-hours per year by 2040 (Source: *McKinsey, June 2019*), the 18,500 m² UKBIC facility with its new Module and Pack manufacturing line will allow British companies to determine whether their prototype technology can be manufactured at the required volume, speed, performance and cost to be commercially successful. The facility is located in Coventry, England, about 30 miles southeast of Birmingham and 20 miles from Comau’s UK facilities in Rugby.

Comau’s highly flexible assembly line supports a full range of sizes and specific product variances, and have the built-in scalability to handle greater production volumes when required. By integrating its advanced technology, such as robot assembly modules, smart cameras and thermal imaging, pick and place grippers, and End-of-Line leak test technologies, the solution will help ensure the safety and reliability of the manufactured batteries. In addition, Comau can help validate battery-related technology and design parameters to further increase the efficiency of the proposed solutions.





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“We are honoured to be at the forefront of technology development efforts that will expand the UK electrification market by bridging the gap between basic research and product development,” explains Andrew Lloyd, Comau’s Automation Systems and Electro-Mobility Business Segment Leader. “Being selected as the main technology partner by UKBIC for its Module and Pack assembly line is a direct result of our proven ability to support our customers in every step of the electrification process.”

“The combination of Comau UK’s close collaboration with the customer and their dynamic resolve to adopting solutions has proven to be a winning approach for both companies,” added John Coombes, Managing Director, Comau UK. “More importantly, the cutting-edge facility will allow UKBIC to remove barriers that can slow the development of these promising new technologies.”

Ian Whiting, UKBIC’s Commercial Director, added, “We’re delighted to have our Module and Pack line up and running at UKBIC, the first part of the facility which customers can use. From the outset, the team at Comau have helped us realise our goal of proving whether promising technologies can be manufactured at the required volume, speed, performance and cost to be commercially successful.”

About Comau

Comau, a member of Stellantis, is a worldwide leader in delivering advanced industrial automation products and systems. Its portfolio includes technology and systems for electric, hybrid and traditional vehicle manufacturing, industrial robots, collaborative and wearable robotics, autonomous logistics, dedicated machining centers and interconnected digital services and products able to transmit, elaborate and analyze machine and process data. With over 45 years of experience and a strong presence within every major industrial country, Comau is helping manufacturers of all sizes in almost any industry experience higher quality, increased productivity, faster time-to-market and lower overall costs. The company’s offering also extends to project management and consultancy, as well as maintenance and training for a wide range of industrial segments. Headquartered in Turin, Italy, Comau has an international network of 7 innovation centers, 5 digital hubs, 8 manufacturing plants and employs more than 9,000 people in 14 countries. A global network of distributors and partners allows the company to respond quickly to the needs of customers, no matter where they are located throughout the world. Through the training activities organized by its Academy, Comau is also committed to developing the technical and managerial knowledge necessary for companies to face the challenges and opportunities of Industry 4.0.

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