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NEWS RELEASE

Innomech and FCS Automation join forces for medical device manufacturers

GB Innomech (Innomech) and FCS Automation (FCS) – two UK-based automation companies – have agreed to work together to offer medical device manufacturing companies a more integrated approach to robotics and automation. The new partnership will help companies looking to improve the efficiency, reliability, capacity or other key aspects of their production lines, to comply with new regulations or to integrate new functions.

Automation consultancy Innomech and FCS, a specialist in PLC control systems plan to pool their complementary skills for targeted new business opportunities and to build on the success of a large-scale project that they recently completed for one of the world's largest medical equipment manufacturers. The two companies worked together to help a global corporation transfer an existing multi-stage automated system from one of its US sites into a UK production facility, while at the same time updating and reconfiguring it to significantly improve its efficiency.

“FCS Automation has provided Innomech with specialist software development skills for several years but this latest project was the first time we have worked as partners from the first customer meetings through to final machine signoff. The 12 month project was so successful that we believe other medical device manufacturers could benefit from our combined experience of working in validated production environments, together with our skills and ability to find system-level improvements to help boost product quality and manufacturing efficiency,” said Tim Mead, managing director of Innomech.

The recently completed upgrade for the US manufacturer included replacing several aspects of the machine's hardware to improve process control of critical manufacturing steps; renewing the safety system to enable easier and faster access to the machine for routine setting and maintenance; and implementing a more robust software-based product tracking system. A system-wide review of the software also enabled the full integration of a product bagging station that had previously operated as a stand-alone function, giving a further boost to manufacturing efficiency.

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As part of its in-depth analysis, the joint Innomech/FCS team was also able to identify several new ways to streamline the machine's operational performance. Additional features were added to the user interface to simplify machine operation, and a comprehensive code review identified the causes of occasional screen lock-ups and system crashes that previously interrupted routine production and affected overall line efficiency.

Notes to editors:

About GB Innomech

GB Innomech (Innomech) specialises in automating highly complex and labour-intensive manufacturing processes to maximise outputs, improve product quality and boost business performance. The company works with major international manufacturers in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices and environmental, as well as earlier-stage businesses looking to bring breakthrough technologies or products to market.

Innomech has a growing market reputation for solving the toughest of manufacturing problems by the early identification and management of risk, often cross-fertilising technologies and techniques from a range of industry sectors. All projects from initial feasibility studies through to building production-scale machines are conducted to high specification pharmaceutical industry standards and are designed to comply with GAMP5, FDA and other international standards.

The company was founded in 1990, is based at The Innovation Centre in Witchford, north of Cambridge and was awarded The Queen's Award for Enterprise 2009 to recognise its sustained growth in international markets.

For additional information about GB Innomech please visit or contact:

- www.innomech.co.uk
- Press enquiries to Simon McKay on +44 (0)1353 741075 or email to simonmckay@innomech.co.uk
- All other enquiries to Tim Mead at Innomech on +44 (0)1353 667394

About FCS Automation

FCS Automation is a specialist PLC control systems integrator and working in a wide range of safety critical applications with clients in the UK and internationally. The company is based in Harrold, near Bedford.

For further information please see www.fcsautomation.co.uk or call +44 (0)1234 212543.

Photographs

A print quality JPEG of the image below has been attached to the original email or is also available on request from Simon McKay (details above).



- 1 GB Innomech and FCS Automation have agreed to work together to offer medical device manufacturing companies a more integrated approach to robotics and automation. This image shows Tim Mead, managing director of Innomech (on the left) with Mathew Sumpton, director of FCS Automation in front of part of a manufacturing system that the two companies have been working on jointly for a UK-based client. Credit: GB Innomech

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