

UK is starting to see a growth in the take-up of robotic automation

Description

According to the [IFR \(International Federation of Robotics\)](#) World Robotics Report 2015, there are 16,935 robots in the UK. There are 1,200 large UK manufacturing companies and 87,000 SMEs – between 10,000 and 20,000 of these are potential candidates for robotic automation. The latest forecast from the [IFR](#) says that by 2019, more than 1.4 million new industrial robots will be installed in factories around the world. In the race for **automation in manufacturing**, the European Union is currently one of the global frontrunners: 65% of countries with an above-average number of industrial robots per 10,000 employees are located in the EU.

“Automation is a central competitive factor for traditional manufacturing groups, but is also becoming increasingly important for small and medium-sized enterprises around the world”, says Joe Gemma, President of the [IFR](#).

The number of industrial robots deployed worldwide will increase to around 2.6 million units by 2019. That’s about one million units more than in the record-breaking year of 2015. Broken down according to sectors, around 70% of industrial robots are currently at work in the automotive, electrical/electronics and metal and machinery industry segments. In 2015, the **strongest growth in the number of operational units recorded was registered in the electronics industry**, which boasted a rise of 18%.

“After a long period of lagging behind the rest of the world, the UK is finally starting to see a growth in the take-up of robotic automation, as businesses start to recognise their competitive potential,” says Mike Wilson, who is President of the [British Automation and Robot Association](#).

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Productivity benefits include:

- speeding up a volume manufacturing process
- making a process more flexible and reduce batch sizes and reduce changeover times
- making a process more reliable, more repeatable, more consistent
- making a process safer, or more ergonomic

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Last updated: October 2019 Version:

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