

SEAT S.A. introduces Effidence autonomous mobile robots at the Martorell plant

- **The EffiBOT is an autonomous, collaborative mobile robot that adapts to the needs of employees to make their work easier**
- **It eliminates travel to improve efficiency**
- **SEAT S.A. is the first car manufacturer in Spain to incorporate this technology**

Martorell, 28/04/2021 - SEAT S.A.'s Martorell factory continues to work on the development and application of digital tools and solutions to become a smarter, more digitalised and increasingly connected factory. To reach this goal, the company called on the French company Effidence, to incorporate two autonomous, collaborative mobile robots that adapt to the needs of employees to help them with tasks such as transporting parts.

With this move, SEAT S.A. has become the first car manufacturer in Spain to use these robots, called EffiBOTs, which aim to adapt to production processes and manage resources and communication between the different areas of the company more efficiently.

The company's Vice-President for Production and Logistics Herbert Steiner stated that: ***"Autonomous mobile robots place us at the forefront of innovation in the automotive sector. They're also a clear example of how robots can collaborate with employees to make their work easier. Their incorporation contributes to driving Industry 4.0 and making us more efficient, flexible, agile and competitive."***

EffiBOT: the intelligent robot

The EffiBOT is a robot developed by the company Effidence, with which SEAT S.A. has collaborated to adapt its operation to the processes at the Martorell plant. Processing constant 360° readings, it is capable of following the person who tapped its touchscreen as they move around the factory, without the need for them to have any device on them even if they come across any person or object in their way. Among other tasks, the EffiBOT removes the burden of carrying heavy loads from workers, as it can transport all kinds of materials needed for car assembly, whether carrying up to 250 kilos or pulling up to 500 kilos.

The company has introduced two EffiBOTs in an experimental phase and could expand the number of these robots in the future. Unlike automated guided vehicles (AGVs), which require a track to function properly, autonomous mobile robots (AMR) such as EffiBOT can recognise their surroundings to map their route to a defined destination and avoid obstacles along the way.

A benchmark for Industry 4.0

In addition to the EffiBOTs, and as an example of the transformation to turn Martorell into a smart factory, the plant currently has around 20 collaborative robots in the assembly areas, such as the “cobots” that are responsible for applying the lettering to the Ibiza and Arona models.

These last years, the company has implemented technological innovations throughout its entire production cycle, such as EffiBOTs, collaborative robots, AGVs in indoor and outdoor areas and drones for logistics transport that, combined with more efficient data management thanks to the use of artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain, enable more efficient, flexible and agile processes. Moreover, the company has an innovation team made up of people from different areas for the creation of new Industry 4.0 projects.

About Effidence

Effidence provides innovative robotic solutions to optimize intralogistics flows and order picking applications of the industry or logistics. Founded in 2009 by Cédric TESSIER, Effidence offers agile and efficient robotic solutions that adapt to the needs of its customers and their growth: collaborative robots "follow-me" and autonomous to work with or near humans, standalone robots or cooperating fleet type "swarm-me". In 2020, Effidence has signed a strategic partnership with the MANITOU group to distribute EffiBOT robots in Europe, and market MANITOU warehouse trucks (stacker, tractor, order picker, ...) robotized from Effidence technology.

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