

YASKAWA SA and IMS-SA launch Megmeet laser welding cell

Yaskawa Southern Africa has partnered with Industrial Manufacturing Systems South Africa (IMS-SA) to introduce the Megmeet laser welding cell. This groundbreaking solution combines precision robotics with cutting-edge laser technology.

Marking a first for the local market, Yaskawa SA, in partnership with IMS-SA, has installed a fully integrated Megmeet robotic laser welding system, which allows all welding parameters to be controlled directly from the robot teach pendant, streamlining production and setting a new standard for automation in South Africa.

"The Megmeet laser welding cell represents a major step forward for local manufacturing," says Devon Prinsloo, National Project Manager at Yaskawa Southern Africa. "It's one of the first solutions in its price range to offer full integration with the robot control system, meaning welding parameters can be adjusted on the fly. This allows South African manufacturers to access world-class technology at a cost-effective scale, helping them remain competitive both locally and globally."

A key differentiator is accessibility. Traditional robotic laser welding systems can cost tens of millions of rands, making them unaffordable for most businesses. The Megmeet laser welding cell, in con-

trast, delivers advanced capabilities at a significantly more accessible investment level, opening the door for medium-sized manufacturers to adopt automation once considered out of reach.

The collaboration leverages Yaskawa's expertise in robotic automation and motion control alongside IMS-SA's role as a specialist integrator and supplier of Megmeet's laser technology. IMS-SA also supplies safety enclosures and application engineering, with both companies providing ongoing technical support to ensure the system remains internationally competitive.

"IMS-SA exists to give manufacturers reliable, locally supported automation systems that improve productivity and ensure repeatable quality," explained Hannes Crouse, Director of IMS-SA. "By combining Megmeet's proven laser technology with Yaskawa's precision robotics, we are providing a seamlessly integrated solution with ongoing local support and training. That's what makes this partnership so valuable."

The Megmeet laser welding cell is particularly suited to industries reliant on thin-sheet fabrication, including automotive, appliance manufacturing, aerospace, rail and general sheet metal production. Beyond major sectors, it can also be applied to products such as electrical enclosures, elevator components, signage and stainless steel kitchen equipment. From aluminium battery enclosures to stainless steel panels, the system ensures defect-free welds that meet both structural and aesthetic requirements.

Key differentiators for the laser welding system include:

- Deep penetration laser welding with minimal heat distortion.
- Adaptive vision systems for real-time responsiveness.
- Compact, modular design for quick deployment and integration.
- Industry 4.0 readiness with diagnostics and data integration.
- Customisable options from 1.5 kW to 3.0 kW, with single or dual wire, with



Devon Prinsloo, Project Manager at Yaskawa Southern Africa.



Hannes Crouse, Director of IMS-SA.

advanced versions also featuring integrated cameras for weld monitoring. By reducing reliance on scarce welding talent, improving throughput and lowering per-unit welding costs, the solution addresses many of the challenges facing South African manufacturers today. The enclosed design adds safety, further enhancing its appeal for modern production environments.

Notably, the partnership also addresses concerns often raised around automation and job displacement. Rather than reducing opportunities for human workers, the Megmeet laser welding cell creates new pathways for upskilling and career growth. Operators and technicians are trained to work alongside robotic systems, while higher production volumes generate demand for additional roles upstream and downstream in the production pipeline.

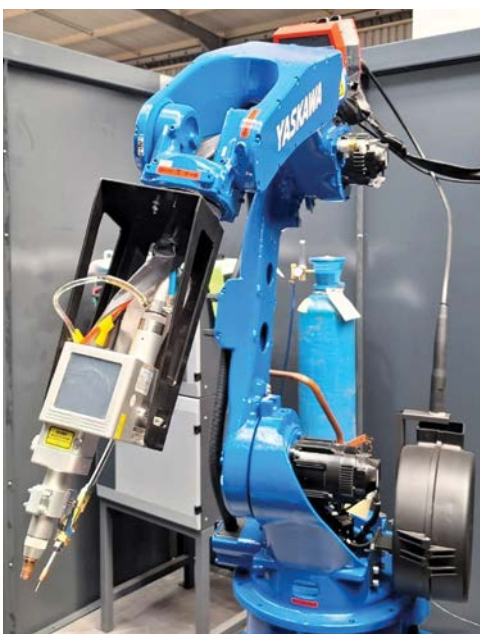
"While some may see robotics as a threat to jobs, the reality is quite the opposite," adds Crouse. "Higher throughput means more work on both the start and finish lines of production. Coupled with the need for skilled operators, the technology creates a healthier, more sustainable employment landscape."

"This partnership is about building a smarter, more competitive manufacturing base in South Africa," concludes Prinsloo. "We invite customers to test the system on their own products and experience firsthand the productivity and quality gains it can deliver."

Yaskawa is a global leader in robotic automation and motion control technology, providing advanced solutions that drive efficiency, precision and innovation in manufacturing. With a strong presence in Southern Africa, Yaskawa supports industries across automotive, packaging, welding and beyond.

As a supplier of Megmeet welding technologies and an integration partner to Yaskawa, IMS-SA helps South African manufacturers adopt globally competitive technologies tailored to their unique challenges.

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