



## **PRESS RELEASE**

*Information Embargoed till 12 June 2009, 1030 hours*

## **ITE AND OKURA COLLABORATE TO ENHANCE EXPERTISE IN ROBOT PALLETIZER SYSTEMS**

***New S\$1.3 million Centre of Technology to be set up at ITE College Central***

Okura Flexible Automation Systems Pte Ltd and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Friday, 12 June 2009 to start a three-year collaboration to develop real-work expertise and the next generation of skilled personnel in Robot Palletizer Systems.

### **Benefits of Robot Palletizer Systems to Industry**

2. Robot palletizer systems play a major role in improving cost-efficiency. They optimise productivity by efficiently placing finished products accurately and neatly into stacks on pallets. The efficient use of storage and freight space translates into significant cost savings for firms and improves the overall sustained superior performance – hence impacting their competitive advantage. The pictures (taken from the brochure on Okura Robot Palletizers) below show some robot palletizers in action:



### **ITE-Okura Centre of Technology**

3. Under the collaboration, the ITE-Okura Centre of Technology will be set up at ITE College Central. Costing S\$1.3 million, the Centre will comprise four robot palletizers and one complete robot palletizer system. It will serve as a platform to provide multi-disciplinary learning and technology development opportunities for ITE staff and students from the Info-Communications Technology, Electronics and Mechatronics courses, to address solutions for robot palletizing, sorting and packing finished products and engineering informatics. Furthermore, the centre will serve as a showcase, demonstration and testing base for Okura's clients and ITE's corporate visitors. It will be the centre for ITE staff and Okura's engineers to carry out application, applied R&D and testing activities.

### **Opportunities for ITE Students and Staff**

4. Over 100 ITE students can look forward to an elective module on training in robot palletizer systems and programming that will be jointly offered by ITE and Okura. Okura's experienced staff will provide training for the students to achieve full capability and know-how to support the industries in all aspects of the robot palletizer. In addition, students will be given opportunities for industry attachments by working with ITE staff and/or Okura engineers at their customers' respective sites. Some ITE teaching staff will also have the opportunity to be trained to enhance their professional and technical competency.

5. Mr Bruce Poh, Director & CEO, ITE, said: "The MOU marks the beginning of a rewarding three-year collaboration between ITE and Okura to develop the competencies of our staff and students in the area of robot-palletizing solutions. The new ITE-Okura Centre of Technology for Robot Palletizer will also enrich ITE students' learning experience through real-life hands-on sessions. I am indeed pleased that this collaboration will equip ITE students with these competencies so that they can better contribute to the industry."

## **Invitation to Media**

6. Members of the media are cordially invited to cover the MOU Signing Ceremony between Okura and ITE. The Ceremony will be held on **Friday, 12 June 2009 at 10 am** at **ITE College Central (MacPherson Campus), 201 Circuit Road**. The Ceremony Programme and Location Map are attached at [Annexes A and B](#) respectively.

7. For confirmation on attendance and arrangement for interviews and photography, please contact:

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### **About Okura**

Okura Flexible Automation Systems Pte Ltd, established in 1989, is the Singapore subsidiary of a leading Japanese industrial automation manufacturer. Okura Yusoki Co., Ltd. Okura provides a complete and distinctive range of products ranging from standard conveyors to robot palletizers and complex sorting systems and services such as installation, maintenance and e-business solutions, to automate the business processes of companies in South-East Asia, China and Oceania. Okura are a global leader in robot palletizing solutions. For more information, please visit [www.okura.com.sg](http://www.okura.com.sg).

### **About the Institute of Technical Education**

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore, was established as a postsecondary education institution in 1992 under the Ministry of Education. ITE is a principal provider of career and technical education and key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards to enhance Singapore's workforce competitiveness. Under its "One ITE System, Three Colleges" Model of Education and Governance, ITE has three Colleges, comprising ITE College Central, ITE College East and ITE College West. For more information, please visit [www.ite.edu.sg](http://www.ite.edu.sg).

**SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
AND  
OKURA FLEXIBLE AUTOMATION SYSTEMS PTE LTD**

**Friday, 12 June 2009, 10 am  
ITE College Central (MacPherson Campus)  
201 Circuit Road**

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**PROGRAMME**

<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>
9:45 am	Arrival of Guests
10:00 am	Speech by Mr Bruce Poh Director & Chief Executive Officer Institute of Technical Education
	Speech by Mr Edwin Chew Managing Director Okura Flexible Automation Systems Pte Ltd
	Video Presentation
10:30 am	Signing of MOU
	Exchange of Mementos
	Reception
11:15 am	End of Ceremony

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**LOCATION MAP**

