New CP700L High-speed Palletizing Robot Features the Series' Highest Payload Capacity

In November, Kawasaki released its new CP700L high-speed palletizing robot. This latest addition to the CP lineup can transport up to 700 kg at once, giving it the highest payload capacity in the series.

The CP700L is designed to carry out logistics-related handling of cargo in boxes, bags and so forth. By using the same primary arm components as other CP-series palletizers and making the arm unit compact, the CP700L offers the industry's lightest weight (1,750 kg) while achieving a maximum payload of 700 kg. The control unit is the same compact, energy-saving controller seen in other CP-series products. By adopting this controller and its power regeneration function, which reuses energy generated during deceleration in palletizing operations, this palletizer achieves reduced energy consumption and CO_2 emissions.

The CP700L has an enhanced drive mechanism for the arm rotation, which is key to speeding up palletizing work. At 900 cycles/h, it has the fastest throughput in the industry. This allows faster process cycles, helping to speed up distribution.

The CP700L also has a wide working range which supports a stowage range of width 1,800 mm, depth 1,600 mm and height 2,200 mm. By using the same arm parts as those found in past CP-series palletizing robots that achieved a lightweight, compact final product, Kawasaki has brought the CP700L's weight down to 1,750 kg and reduced the rotation axis' interference area for a more compact installation footprint.

With the optional K-SPARC palletizing software, an operating program can be generated simply on a computer just by selecting the workpiece, pallet, and stowage pattern. Layout planning and operating simulation can also be performed, improving workability.

The CP series, which was released in 2015, is the fastest line of robots in the palletizing robot industry. The three existing models—the CP180L with a maximum payload of 180 kg, CP300L with a maximum payload of 300 kg and CP500L with a maximum payload of 500 kg—have contributed to automation with increased speeds and higher load-carrying capacities in logistics operations both within Japan and abroad. The CP700L with a maximum payload of 700 kg was added to this lineup to further address customer needs in consideration of growing demand for increased efficiency and higher load-carrying capacities brought about by continuing globalization in the logistics industry.

INFORMATION

Prime Ministers of India and Japan Visit Kawasaki

In November, Kawasaki's Hyogo Works had the honor of a visit by the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Mr. Narendra Modi, and the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe.

Kawasaki President Mr. Yoshinori Kanehana and Mr. Makoto Ogawara, President of the Rolling Stock Company, escorted the delegation, showing a completed unit of the E5 Series Shinkansen to be delivered to East Japan Railway Company, as well as the outfitting process.

This visit by the prime ministers of the two countries was a great honor as well as a pleasure for Kawasaki, and it certainly motivated and inspired Kawasaki staff to work even harder.

(Above) From left: Mr. Ogawara, Mr. Shigeru Murayama (Chairman of the Board), Prime Minister Modi, Prime Minister Abe, and Mr. Kanehana.
(Left) Mr. Kanehana gives explanations to the two prime ministers at the Hyogo Works.

Two 1.5 MW Gas-turbine Power Generation Sets Delivered for Indonesian Offshore Platform

Kawasaki recently delivered two 1.5 MW gas-turbine power generation sets for an offshore platform operated by PT. Pertamina Hulu Energi Offshore North West Java (PHE ONWJ), an exploration and production subsidiary of the Indonesian state-owned oil and gas company PT Pertamina. The turbines were delivered by Kawasaki Gas Turbine Asia Sdn. Bhd., a Kawasaki subsidiary in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that handles sales and services for Southeast and Southwest Asia.

The delivery consisted of two natural-gas-fired GPB15 generator sets powered by M1A-13 gas turbines developed by Kawasaki. These were installed on the Lima Flow Station, a PHE ONWJ–manned platform which consists of a production platform, a compression platform, a living quarter platform, three bridges and flare support structures located off the northern coast of Java, as replacements for older power generation equipment, and PHE ONWJ plans to begin using the new GPB15 units at the end of 2016.

The Lima Flow Station has been in production since the early 1970's and also serves as a junction for other flow stations, making it an important oil and gas production hub for PHE ONWJ. The platform was constructed at its offshore location as an oil and gas production facility for extracting crude oil and gas from beneath the seabed, as well as to provide living space for workers to handle these operations. The new power-generating equipment was installed to generate electricity for operation and production facilities including lighting and so forth.

Kawasaki has already sold over 5,000 M1A gas turbines in Japan and abroad, earning widespread trust throughout the market. The deep customer trust in Kawasaki-developed gas turbines is founded on outstanding technological capabilities and an extensive track record of successful product deliveries.

Metro-North Railroad Orders Additional AC/DC EMUs from Kawasaki

In November, Kawasaki received from the Metro-North Railroad (MNR), a service operated by New York State's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), an order for 60 additional M-8 AC/DC electric multiple unit (EMU) cars as well as improvements to existing rolling stock. The order purchase amount comes to US$302 million (approximately ¥32 billion), and the new train cars will be delivered in order of completion from 2019 to 2021.

This recent order is for additional cars to complement the M-8 EMUs originally delivered by Kawasaki between 2011 and 2015, and the new cars will be used for commercial passenger operations on the New Haven Line between Grand Central Station in Manhattan, New York City and the City of New Haven in Connecticut (approximately 116 kilometers in length). In addition, Kawasaki will make improvements to existing rolling stock, including enhancements to cab signaling equipment functions and procurement and installation of security cameras and other auxiliary equipment.

With MNR's decision to order additional rolling stock, their cumulative order for Kawasaki M-8 EMU cars comes to 468 units, for a total contract value of US$1.31 billion (approximately ¥142.5 billion). Furthermore, this latest contract includes options for up to 34 train cars. When these are exercised, the majority of operational MNR rolling stock will be Kawasaki-made.

Ridership on the MNR New Haven Line has been skyrocketing, and insufficient numbers of train cars has become a major problem on the line. Kawasaki's M-8 EMUs provide a comfortable ride for its passengers alongside excellent reliability, and thanks to high praise received from MNR users the railroad has decided to place this latest order with Kawasaki for additional units.