Press release

Long-established British brand invests in modernisation of its paint shop

Lotus chooses high-quality and high efficiency top coat line from Dürr

Bietigheim-Bissingen, 17 April 2020 – Sports car manufacturer Lotus is automating its body painting facility at its British headquarters in Hethel. Lotus contracted Dürr to install an automated paint shop boasting a number of extremely efficient processes.

Dürr beat worldwide competition during the awarding process thanks to its extremely efficient technologies producing less waste with low environmental impact. The modernisation includes an automated application line including a special paint supply and conveyor systems. The contract was awarded in 2019.

Currently all Lotus cars are painted manually, but for the future, Lotus will be embracing automation for the exterior painting with four **Eco**RP E133 painting robots. With their six axes and rail, these robots are flexible enough for a number of applications. When it came to the design of the new paint shop, the main priority for Lotus was extremely high process efficiency whilst maintaining the high quality of the current manual spraying process.

With the composite body panels coated with conductive primer, one pair of robots process the application of primer and clear coat in one mixed spraybooth whilst a second pair of robots apply the colour coat in another booth. The robots not only paint, but can also open the body doors and hoods thanks to their modular design.

**Economical and fast: special paint supply using pigging system**

The high efficiency and high quality is not only achieved through the use of robots, but also through technologies with low material consumption.

All Lotus cars are built to order with Lotus Exclusive allowing customers to make their Lotus truly unique, with each vehicle carefully finished according to individual requirements including a choice of an almost infinite number of colours limitless on all of its model lines. Individualisation including stripes and highlights will continue to be painted manually.

To be able to provide such a variety of colours in low quantities, **Eco**Supply P special paint supply systems will be installed. These units pump the various paints to the painting booth in hoses – with almost zero losses reducing paint waste. **Eco**Supply P also minimizes cleaning material consumption and colour change times compared with conventional ring line systems.

**Sixty percent less energy**

**Eco**Dry Rack also helps to increase efficiency. The multi-stage overspray filter system, which is extremely compact thanks to its permanently installed filter walls, offers all the advantages of dry separation. It needs neither water nor chemicals, which keeps running costs low and is kind to the environment. Up to 95 percent of the supply air can be recycled as recirculated air using this technology, which reduces energy consumption in the paint booth by more than 60 percent compared with a classic wet scrubbing system. This has a positive effect on the CO2 emissions. **Eco**Dry Rack is easy to use and service. Once the filters are saturated, they can be replaced during the production breaks or at weekends.

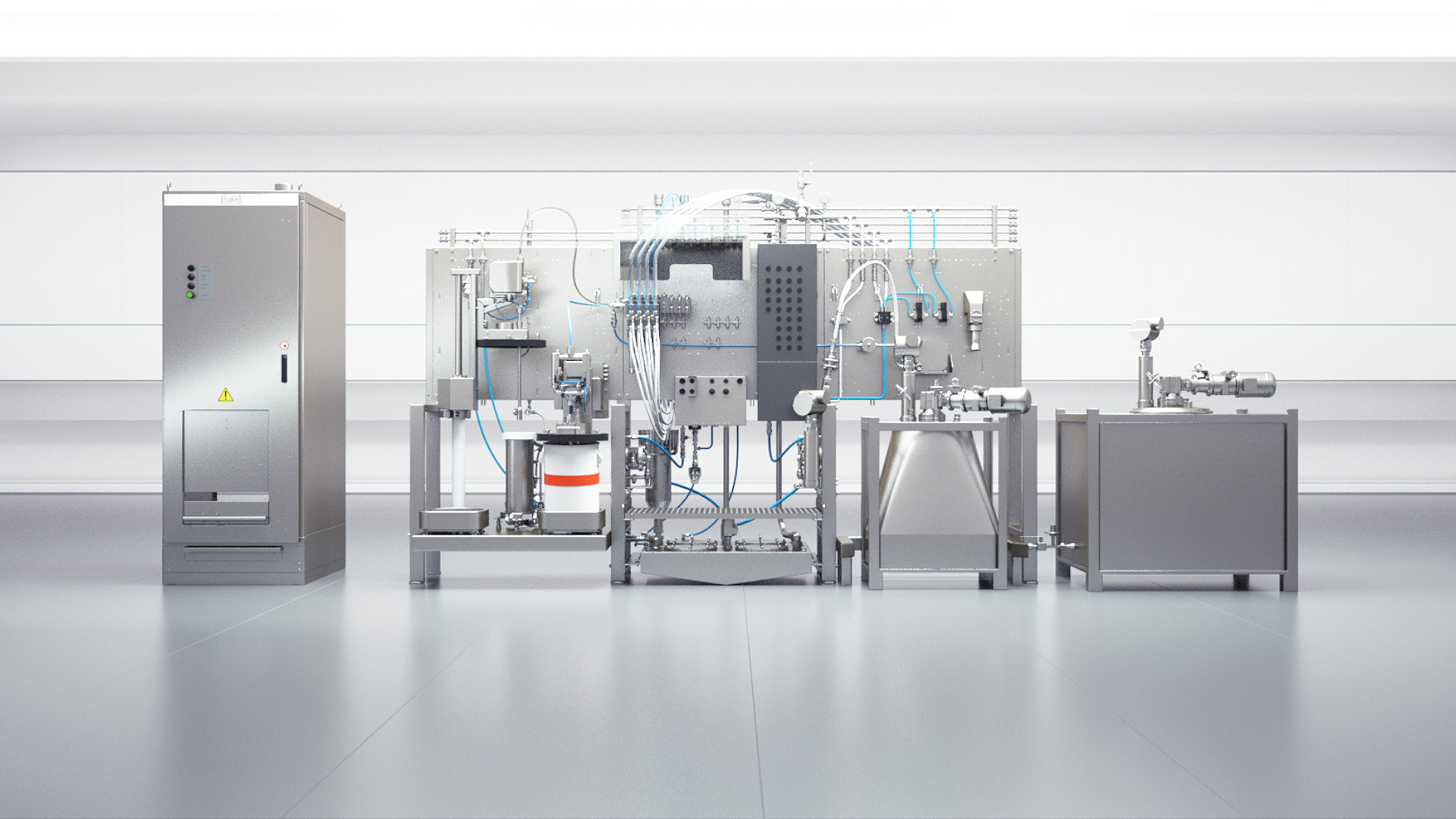
The new Lotus body painting facility is scheduled to be commissioned in 2021.

Pictures

The following pictures can be downloaded [here](https://www.durr.com/en/media/news/news-detail/view/lotus-chooses-high-quality-and-high-efficiency-top-coat-line-from-duerr-78824/) on our website.



Picture 1: Lotus sports cars, such as the Evora, will in future be painted with painting robots from Dürr.



Picture 2: The “EcoSupply P” pigging systems ensure a fast and economical special paint supply at Lotus.



Picture 3: The overspray in the painting booth is separated in an environmentally friendly and energy-efficiently way using Dürr technology on the basis of cardboard filters.

The Dürr Group is one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms with extensive expertise in automation and digitalisation/Industry 4.0. Its products, systems and services enable highly efficient manufacturing processes in different industries. The Dürr Group supplies sectors like the automotive industry, mechanical engineering, chemical, pharmaceutical and woodworking industries. It generated sales of € 3.92 billion in 2019. The company has around 16,500 employees and 112 business locations in 34 countries. The Group operates in the market with the brands Dürr, Schenck and HOMAG and with five divisions:

* **Paint and Final Assembly Systems:** paint shops as well as final assembly, testing and filling technology for the automotive industry
* **Application Technology:** robot technologies for the automated application of paint, sealants and adhesives
* **Clean Technology Systems:** air pollution control, noise abatement systems and coating systems for battery electrodes
* **Measuring and Process Systems:** balancing equipment and diagnostic technology
* **Woodworking Machinery and Systems:** machinery and equipment for the woodworking industry

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