

## **VARTA supplies lithium-ion batteries for agricultural robots**

Nördlingen. VARTA Solutions supports the development of agricultural robots with targeted battery solutions. The application-specific power packs "Easy Block" and "Easy Blade" of the ASB series (Application Specific Batteries) are lithium-ion batteries for use in small and medium-sized agricultural vehicles. This also includes driverless transport vehicles and forklifts. The batteries are modular and expandable and can therefore be adapted to specific applications.

"Tomorrow's agriculture must produce food more sustainably and with less effort. We are convinced that agricultural robotics can make a major contribution to this", Gordon Clements, General Manager of VARTA Solutions, says. "As there are a lot of start-ups active in this area that cannot afford to develop their own batteries, our business model is to offer everyone an ASB as a standard solution. This saves companies, among other things, the costs of design and certification. For those who are successful, we will later develop custom lithium-ion battery solutions", Clements says.

The lithium-ion pack "Easy Block" from VARTA is available in three versions. The rated power is between 16 and 51.2 ampere hours, the voltage between 12.8 and 38.4 volts, and they have a rated energy of 614 to 655 watt hours. More than 2000 charging cycles are possible. The "Easy Blade" lithium-ion pack is available in three versions as well. The rated output is between 30 and 60 ampere hours, the voltage between 24 and 48 volts, and they all have a rated energy of 1,512 watt hours. More than 1000 charging cycles are possible.

Lithium-ion batteries offer several advantages over lead-acid solutions. They have a significantly longer service life and they can provide more energy on the same footprint. In addition, they can be charged faster. Lithium-ion batteries can also provide the power for faster lifting and heavier loads in a smaller form factor. Their use also reduces the head length in truck and pallet loading applications, which makes narrower aisles possible and increases storage space efficiency.

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### **About VARTA AG**

VARTA AG produces and markets a comprehensive battery portfolio from micro batteries, household batteries, energy storage systems to customer-specific battery solutions for a variety of applications, and as a technology leader sets the industry standards in important areas. As the group's parent company, it operates in the "Microbatteries & Solutions" and "Household Batteries" business segments.

The "Microbatteries & Solutions" segment focuses on the OEM business for microbatteries and the lithium-ion battery pack business. Through intensive research and development, VARTA sets global standards in the microbattery sector and is a recognized innovation leader in the important growth markets of lithium-ion technology and in primary hearing aid batteries. The "Household Batteries" segment comprises the battery business for end customers, including household batteries, accumulators, chargers, portable power (power banks) and lights as well as energy storage devices.

The VARTA AG Group currently employs almost 4,000 people. With five production and manufacturing facilities in Europe and Asia as well as distribution centers in Asia, Europe and the USA, the operating subsidiaries of VARTA AG are currently active in over 75 countries worldwide.