



AUTOMOTIVE PROFILE

HURRICANE EQUIPMENT TEAM UP WITH AUTOROBOT TO UPDATE SA VEHICLE DATABASE

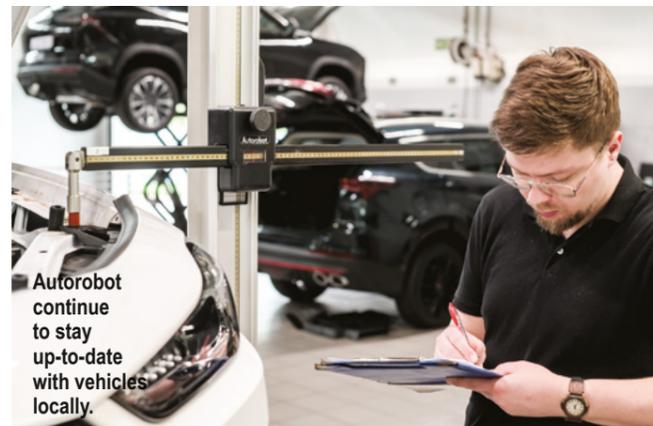


EzCalibre3D has an extensive database with approximately 60 reference points per vehicle.



Autorobot's EzCalibre ensures accurate measurements of local vehicles.

by Jay Groat



Autorobot continue to stay up-to-date with vehicles locally.



Seen here are Lance Sebastian (left) from Hurricane Equipment and Niklas Laurila, Autorobot technical trainer.

In a significant collaboration aimed at enhancing automotive repair technology, Hurricane Equipment has enlisted the expertise of Autorobot Finland, a renowned global leader in collision repair systems. Founded in 1969 in Kuopio, Finland, Autorobot is celebrated for its cutting-edge solutions that boost speed, precision, and ergonomic efficiency in auto body shops worldwide.

Autorobot's flagship product, the EzCalibre measuring system, has been a staple in South Africa for 15 years with over 100 local subscribers. Known for its comprehensive approach to collision repair, the system integrates both mechanical and electronic tools, with the innovative EzCalibre3D being the standout - the first tram gauge equipped with a 3D measuring mode. This tool facilitates precise damage documentation and repair, supporting an extensive database with approximately 60 reference points per vehicle for accurate measurements across various car models.

The collaboration focused on training sessions for Hurricane Equipment,

Autorobot's importer in South Africa, to measure new vehicle models not available in Europe or Scandinavia. This was critical to gather data from undamaged vehicles to serve as reference points in Autorobot's datasheets. During the training, four vehicles were measured: Jetour Dashing, Jetour X70 Plus, Toyota Starlet, and Toyota Fortuner. This initiative will continue with local technicians at Hurricane Equipment, expanding the database which currently includes about 4 000 vehicle models, plus additional data for older models accessible via the Autorobot Extranet for subscribers.

The training also highlighted the importance of local support for Autorobot's patented products, like the EzCalibre3D, which offers unparalleled measurement accuracy due to its patented height measuring function. This local presence ensures end-users receive quicker and better support, enhancing the service life and effectiveness of the equipment.

The strategic move was partly driven by new vehicle measurement requirements in South African body shops, which have

spurred sales. Similar trends have been observed globally where new regulatory demands increase product demand. It was also noted that in some regions, like Finland, OEM approvals are less stringent, allowing sales without such endorsements, unlike in other countries.

Post-training, Hurricane Equipment's local technicians will continue the measurement work, guided remotely by Autorobot on which vehicles to measure based on local market needs. Additional training might be provided if required, ensuring ongoing skill development and support.

Autorobot's commitment to customer service is evident through its robust support system, including maintenance, technical assistance, and parts services, ensuring their equipment, trusted in over 70 countries, continues to meet the dynamic demands of the automotive repair industry. This partnership not only strengthens Autorobot's footprint in South Africa but also promises enhanced repair quality and efficiency for the local market.