

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Play it safe.

### **Torch with close-to-process drive unit and integrated collision detection**

SKS Welding Systems, Kaiserslautern, expand their family of welding torches with close-to-process drive units: With the Frontpull 8i, we introduce a system with a built-in collision detection device between the body and neck of the torch. The detector generates a signal when the torch axis is deflected from its zero position. This signal shuts off the robot and prevents damage to the torch. SKS developed the Frontpull 8i on request of customers who are looking for an additional safety feature and wish the shut-off of the robot via collision detection. The parts required for connection to the robot and the torch consumables were all taken from SKS' standard construction kit.

"Close-to-process drive" means that the drive unit is located directly in front of the torch neck. The accordingly close-to-process feeding of the welding wire helps to achieve perfect results in automated arc welding. As the family member 8i Lite (without collision detection), the Frontpull 8i also supports all common process-arm robots (internal cable or hollow shaft robots). Both torches feature the ability to endlessly rotate even beyond 360° around their longitudinal axis. Thus, they occupy a unique position in the market. Limitless rotation is a real time saver and both re-orientation movements of the robot and torsional strain are eliminated. In addition to perfect wire control, the endlessly rotating media leadthrough also protects the torch cable.

Despite the integration of the collision detection feature, the Frontpull 8i weighs only 3.8 kg. As with all single-wire torches of the Kaiserslautern-based company, the high reproducible precision after changing the torch neck and/or wearing parts is impressive. The tolerance of the TCP (Tool Center Point) is a mere  $\pm 0.2$  mm. Additional benefits include controlled heat input into the workpiece, virtually spatter-free joining with defined penetration, good seam appearance, low workpiece deformation and – as a result – only little rework. The Frontpull 8i is suitable for all common arc welding or soldering processes. This includes, of course, also the spatter- and heat-reduced welding processes as microMIG and microMIG-cc.

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Images



1: Frontpull 8i – the new torch with close-to-process wire feeding and integrated collision detection for process arm robots.

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