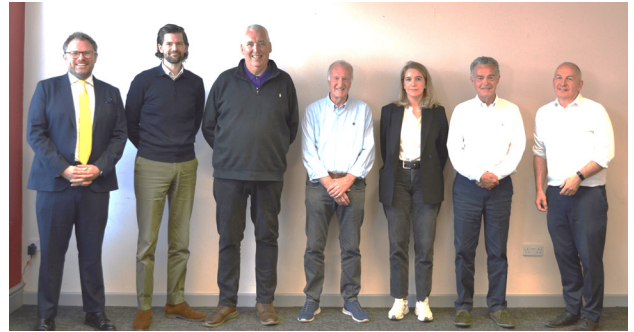


## **Cole Associates Corporate Finance advises selling shareholders as Swedish group enters automation controls sector through the acquisition of Widnes-based Denca Controls.**

Axel Johnson International's business group Industrial Automation has acquired Denca Controls Ltd, a British Automation Controls company situated in Widnes, Cheshire. The acquisition marks Industrial Automation's first acquisition in the niche of Automation Controls and strengthens the Group's presence in the UK. The acquisition completed on Monday, 11th May 2026.

Denca Controls Ltd. is a well-established business, with more than 30 years of operational history. The company serves industrial customers across a broad range of end-use segments, from process industries such as pharmaceuticals and food and beverage, to discrete manufacturing such as automotive and general industries. The customer offering is built on the company's deep competencies and experiences within design, assembly of control panels, industrial programming including PLC, HMI and SCADA, installation, commissioning, technical calibration and aftermarket services. See [www.denca.com](http://www.denca.com)



L-R: Robin Gill (Excello Law), Anton Kullh (Axel Johnson International), Alan Brennan (Denca Controls), John Talbot (Denca Controls), Elin Larnesjö (Axel Johnson International), Jeremy Cole (Cole Associates Corporate Finance), Rob Davies (Mitchell Charlesworth)

"The acquisition of Denca Controls is an exciting step for Industrial Automation," says Anton Kullh, Managing Director at Industrial Automation. "Denca has a strong reputation, deep technical competence and a customer-focused way of working that fits very well with our philosophy. Through this acquisition, we have strengthened our position in the UK market while adding valuable capabilities within automation controls. We look forward to supporting Denca's continued growth journey together with the whole team."

Denca Controls was founded by Alan Brennan and John Talbot in 1995 and is headquartered in Widnes, Cheshire in the UK. Today, the company, with annual turnover in excess of £10 million, employs more than 100 people and is led by a strong and experienced management team, supported by a dedicated team of employees. Over the years, Denca has delivered strong development based on the high level of competence, deep customer application know-how and a clear commitment to long-term customer relationships.

"Joining Axel Johnson International marks an exciting new chapter for Denca," says Alan Brennan and John Talbot, founders of Denca. "We have built our business on close customer collaboration, technical expertise and flexibility. With Axel Johnson International as our owner, we gain a partner that will support us in the next phase of the company's growth journey, while remaining true to our way of working and our commitment to delivering value to customers".

The acquisition underlines Industrial Automation's ambition to build a strong group of complementary automation businesses with high technical competence, strong local market positions and long-term growth potential.

Axel Johnson International is a privately owned Swedish industrial group operating globally. The group has a dedicated long-term approach to ownership, emphasizing sustainable progress and collaboration. The focus lies on acquisitions and the development of companies, specializing in technical components and industrial solutions. The group consists of 220+ companies and employs 6,700 people in 36 countries, organized into six business groups, each focusing on selected niche markets. Axel Johnson International is a part of the Swedish family-owned corporate group, Axel Johnson.

The selling shareholders were advised by Cole Associates Corporate Finance (Jeremy Cole), Mitchell Charlesworth (Rob Davies) and Excello Law (Robin Gill). Axel Johnson International were advised by Shakespeare Martineau (legal) and DSW (financial due diligence).

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