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NEWS

ROBOTS ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITE

The use of a robot on one of the construction sites of Leningrad released a whole column of mechanisms. It can dig trenches, load panels and serve them to assemblers, lay in underground lines and weld pipes, put reinforcements and put up poles. The two-hand manipulator mounted on the under-carriage of a mass-produced excavator has been taught all these operations at the Lenstroirobot association.

Prof. Yovgoni Yuryevich, a leading expert of Leningrad in robotics and engineering cybernetics, called the new manipulator the beginning of using robots in the building construction and municipal

services abounding in manual labour.

The robot operating on the welding-jigs of the Baltiisky shipyards now is hanging upside-down, now moves up a vertical wall in the compartments of ocean-going liners. Like a beetle, stirring the feeler-aerials the robot-washer is moving along the dirty glass of the shop bays, leaving behind a clear strip.

The wide use of robots in Leningrad yields a great saving and social effect. It is expected that the share of manual labour in the region will be reduced by 10 per cent by 1990. (*Soviet Features*, Vol. XXIV, No. 169, November 14, 1985)