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The 4th EURON/EUnited Robotics Technology-Transfer Award

The EURON/EUnited Robotics Technology-Transfer Award has become one of the most visible signs of the EURON network and certainly has motivated teams to learn more about the successful planning and implementation of technology transfer either through industrial contracts or by creating spin-off or start-up companies. The constantly increasing quality of the applications is a clear sign to the increasing activity regarding effective tech-transfer.

The process to carry out the tech-transfer award is straight-forward and has been optimized over the years:

- Launch a call for applications which is distributed among European research and robotics industry
- Solicit applications for the Award
- Review the applications by representatives from industry and academia
- Nominate 5 finalists which are invited to the EURON Annual Meeting
- The presentations are given according to a suggested outline in a dedicated tech-transfer session of the Annual Meeting.
- The final evaluation is on-spot with the nomination and appreciations of the award winners during the banquet.
- The award winners receive a trophy and a cash prize. All finalists are handed over a diploma.
- A press release is issued and distributed.
- Pictures and texts are created for the EURON web-site:
<http://www.euron.org/activities/techaward4.html>



Finalists of Fourth EURON/EUnited Robotics Tech-Transfer Award:

From left to right: Jon Azpiazu (Fatronik), Hong Lui (DLR), Matthias Haag (Schunk), Tobias Ortmaier (KUKA), Sandrine Voros (TIMC-IMAG), Karsten Weiss (Uni Karlsruhe)



The Jury of Fourth EURON/EUnited Robotics Tech-Transfer Award:

From left to right: Herman Bruyninckx (KU Leuven), Stefan Sagert (EUnited Robotics), Gisbert Lawitzky (Siemens AG), Martin Haegele (Fraunhofer IPA), Roland Siegwart (ETH Zurich). Not shown on photo: Rainer Bischoff (KUKA).

Attached are:

- [Press_Release_TechTransfer_EN_final_May_31_2007.doc](#)

Press Release

EURON/EUnited Robotics Tech-Transfer Award

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"EURON/EUnited Robotics Technology Transfer Award" gives boost to European robotics

Award for successful exchange of knowledge
between research and industry in robot
technology held for the fourth time

Stuttgart, 31 May 2007 -

The European Robotics Research Network (EURON) and the European Robotics Association EUnited Robotics have now for the fourth time presented their joint "Technology Transfer Award" in recognition of outstanding achievements in European robot technology. At their annual meeting in Chania (Crete) on 28 March, the first prize was shared equally between the team consisting of Ulrich Hagn, Tobias Ortmaier, and Richard Wohlgemuth for "KineMedic, a new light-weight robot for medical interventions" and to Hong Liu, Peter Meusel, and Gerd Hirzinger for the development of the SCHUNK Anthropomorphic Hand (SAH) which is inspired by the dexterity and sensing capabilities of the human hand. Two third prizes were awarded to a joint development between the University of Karlsruhe and the SCHUNK company leading to a multi-finger industrial-grade robot gripper and a team from the French TIMC-IMAG Laboratory (Techniques for biomedical engineering and complexity management- informatics,

mathematics and applications) for their "Light Endoscope Holder Robot (LER)".

Both DLR Institute of Robotics and Mechatronics and SCHUNK were particularly successful in this year's Technology Transfer Award as they could win two trophies each for their innovative developments.

The new KineMedic is a custom-made universal robot for surgical interventions. Application areas reach from minimally invasive surgery over orthopedic interventions to urology and gynecology. The robot is a joint-development of DLR, and the companies KUKA-Roboter and BrainLAB.

The SCHUNK Anthropomorphic Hand (SAH) has been designed especially for use on service robots in both domestic and commercial environments. Developed on the basis of a study by DLR and Harbin Institute of Technology (China) in conjunction with SCHUNK, the hand is based on a four-finger concept. This makes it possible for a robot to accomplish gripping, handling and manipulation tasks encountered in everyday life.

The LER is designed for digestive, urologic and gynecologic surgeons and has been recently industrialized by the French start-up company EndoControl. A miniaturized body-mounted system allows the automatic tracking of surgical instruments with a robot guided endoscopic camera to provide the surgeon with stable and clear video-images of the intervention area.

With the SDH, SCHUNK developed a three-finger gripper hand for gripping a variety of workpieces. The fingers are able to adjust their orientation for different gripping scenarios. Contact measurements and surface recognition can be achieved by tactile sensors which are integrated in the finger-tips.

"The EURON/EUnited Robotics Technology Transfer Award has established itself firmly as a permanent part of

European robotics research," says Martin Haegele, organizer of the award ceremony and head of robot systems at the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation (IPA) in Stuttgart. According to Haegele, the award is not only intended to reward the exchange of knowledge between research and industry, but also to motivate the entire robotics community to put research and development results into practice successfully. The networking activities have given a tremendous boost to European robotics research, confirms EURON coordinator Herman Bruyninckx, Associate Professor at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Bruyninckx was encouraged by the fact that the "Technology Transfer Award" has evolved into a visible expression of the functioning and continued growing-together of the European robotics community. "Clear progress" as a result of the coordination of research and training and through the promotion of technology transfer is seen also by Thilo Brodtmann, Director of EUnited Robotics: "The activities of the EURON research network and of EUnited Robotics as the leading European association of robotics industries complement each other excellently."

The European robotics association EUnited Robotics was established in June 2004 by leading robot manufacturers and system integrators to act as a mouthpiece and platform for cooperation between all stakeholders from research institutes through national associations to end customers.

EURON sees its role as an excellence network which is aimed at advancing European research, teaching, publications and cooperation between universities and industry in the field of robot technology and at making Europe the "world's number one" in robotics.

The EURON/EUnited Robotics Tech Transfer Award is jointly presented each year by both institutions in recognition of outstanding innovations in the field of robotics and automation in order to promote excellence in applied research and technology

transfer between research and industry. The award is financially supported by the European Community and by the following industrial sponsors from the EUnited Robotics members.

More information: www.euron.org
<http://www.eu-nited-robotics.net>