



FP6-507728

EURON

European Robotics Research Network

Network of Excellence

Information Society Technologies Priority

DR 23.1

Report on the mission and the size of the entity

**Due date of deliverable:** 30 April 2007

**Actual submission date:** 1 June 2007

**Start date of the project:** 1 May 2004

**Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable:** KUL

**Duration:** 48 months

**Revision:** First version

**Dissemination level:** PU

This Deliverable lists various options for a future continuation of the Network. The text presents the presentation of these options to the public at the Annual Meeting in Chania, on March 28th 2007.

## 1 What does the current EURON do?

- “Politics”: roadmapping, connections to other robotics players in Europe, ...
- “Education”
- “Community building”: SIGs, Annual Meeting, research projects, ...

Question: what do we want to keep?

Perception(?): *EURON is only beneficial to the Board members!*”

## 2 Do we want to keep the European dimension?

Questions:

- Does European robotic topics really exist? If they exist, does Euron has “to claim” them in one way or another?
- Are there sufficient reasons to keep the European level instead of going worldwide?
- What relationships and policies should a European organisation have with respect to (i) the corporate institution of the IEEE, and (ii) independent, community “owned” initiatives such as IFRR, RSS, ...?
- What about the possibility to have regional networks (Asia, Oceania, Europe, Americas) taking most of the initiatives (EURON/EUROS, RSS, ...) while something like the IFRR would act as “World Board” for coordination?

## 3 New activities?

Questions:

- Do we want to build bridges to “neighbouring domains” (cognitive science, computer vision, AI, control, mechatronics, ...)
- Do we launch our own open content/open access electronic journal? (Possibly sharing the efforts with the ”neighbouring domains”?)
- Do we try to make [www.euron.org](http://www.euron.org) into *the* robotics research portal? (We have the network, “just” need to get the content...)

## 4 Organisational structure

Questions:

- Do we keep the current concept of the “Board”?
- What about a “rotating” Euron Board? (Cf current EU presidency.)
- Do we need paid administrative support people? To support what exactly?
- Paid membership? How much?
- If Euron becomes a paid membership society, where will it be incorporated, and what would be its legal structure?
- How would an independent Euron add sufficient value to what people already receive from IEEE? Wouldn't it be simpler to become an IEEE/RAS “chapter”?

## 5 Scenario 1—Old style

Apply for EU *Coordination Action* to support:

- Annual Meeting
- EUROS
- Summer schools
- WWW

## 6 Scenario 2—Robotics portal

We use the remaining EURON-II period to prepare an excellent WWW infrastructure:

- *Requires* automation of content assembly!
- Becoming *the* portal makes it possible to derive an income from advertisements...
- ... which can pay for community initiatives (summer schools, EUROS, education,...)
- ... and to extend the portal to other domains (cognitive science, computer vision, control, mecha- tronics, dots), enlarging its value.

## 7 Scenario 3—IEEE

- We let EURON dissolve completely into RAS.
- The European dimension remains “behind the screens”, in order to make sure Europe is suffi- ciently represented.

## 8 Scenario 4—Academic network

Role of the EU is taken over by our universities:

- They provide administrative and financial support to organise meetings, to host the WWW, to organise summer schools, etc.

## 9 Scenario 5—Academic/Industry network

As above, but:

- Integrate with EUROP for relevant activities. (Roadmapping, tech transfer, continuous education, . . .)

## 10 Scenario 6—Network of Excellence

- $\pm 10$  big robotics institutes in Europe grow into “Network of Excellence” . . .
- . . . that the other institutes in this region can use to leverage their research. (Via shared infrastructure and support staff.)
- EURON becomes the (lightweight) “Board” of this Cluster. . .
- . . . serving to synchronize and stimulate information exchange, standardization, mobility, summer schools, educational programs, etc.