



FP6-507728

EURON

European Robotics Research Network

Network of Excellence

Information Society Technologies Priority

DR 15.4

Award ceremony and press release

Due date of deliverable: 30 April 2008

Actual submission date: 2 June 2008

Start date of the project: 1 May 2004

Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable: IPA

Duration: 48 months

Revision: First version

Dissemination level: PU

Press Release

The Fifth EURON/EUnited Robotics Tech-Transfer Award

Contact:

Martin Haegele

Head of Robot Systems at Fraunhofer Institute of
Production and Automation (IPA)

Tel: +49-711-970-1203

Fax: +49-711-970-1008

E-mail: haegele@ipa.fhg.de

URL: www.ipa.fhg.de

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

Award for successful exchange of knowledge
between research and industry in robot
technology now presented for the fifth time

Stuttgart, 29 May 2008 -

The European Robotics Research Network (EURON) and the European Robotics Association EUnited Robotics have now for the fifth time presented their joint "Technology Transfer Award" in recognition of outstanding achievements in European robot technology. At their annual meeting in Prague on 28 March, the first prize was awarded to Nicola Canelli and Giancarlo Teti from the Italian start-up company RoboTech for its successful "I-Droid 01" robotic kit. Over 100,000 units of this small humanoid robot have been sold worldwide in the form of collect-and-build kits available in around 90 consecutive issues from newspaper kiosks. The second prize was awarded to Nicola Tomatis from the Swiss-based start-up company BlueBotics for ANT®, a modular system to provide autonomous navigation to a large spectrum of unmanned vehicles such as automatic forklifts in logistics, mobile service robots and self-propelled wheelchairs. Members of a Swedish consortium which joined forces

to develop a robotic, force-controlled drilling tool were awarded the third prize. This tool is the basis for fully automated, high-accuracy and cost-effective drilling for a variety of products ranging from aircraft to automotive.

The I-Droid 01 robot is a small robot for education and entertainment with an anthropomorphic appearance. It is composed of numerous parts such as a wheeled base, two arms with grippers, visual and auditory sensory systems with speech and image recognition capabilities. Each issue contains robot components and a magazine with articles on robotics as well as instructions for assembling and programming the I-Droid 01.

The autonomous navigation suite from BlueBotics had its origin at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne. The company faced its first technological challenge in 2002 with the successful development and implementation of 11 tour guide robots at the Swiss National exhibition Expo.02. Their current navigation suite ANT® (Autonomous Navigation Technology) is a complete package for autonomous navigation solutions in indoor environments. Other robots equipped with ANT include mobile robots as diverse as machines from Nespresso which freely navigate in buildings or autonomous 2-ton forklifts.

SAAB Aerostructures has been pioneering the use of the novel robotic tool for drilling flexible airframe skin panels. The development successfully eliminated the sliding movement or skating of the tool, which usually results from the low mechanical stiffness of industrial robots. The presented solution is the result of a Swedish research project including ABB Robotics, a leading industrial robotic manufacturer, researchers from Lund and Linköping Universities as well as DELfOi, an industrial IT solutions developer.

"The EURON/EU United Robotics Technology Transfer Award has firmly established itself 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 intended not only to reward the exchange of knowledge between research and industry, but also to motivate the entire robotics community to put research and development results successfully into practice. The networking activities have given a tremendous boost to European robotics research, confirms EURON coordinator Herman Bruyninckx, Associate Professor at the Katholieke Universiteit 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. "This year's finalists show that Europe is leading the world in many advanced robotics domains, and that European companies are able to efficiently transfer high-tech results from research centers into commercial products," he adds. "Clear progress" through the coordination of research and training and 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 also 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 sponsored by the EUnited Robotics members.

More information:

<http://www.euron.org/activities/techaward.html>

<http://www.eu-nited-robotics.net>