

Press Release
ROBOSOFT - ISIR



robuLAB¹⁰ shown at the 19th World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics

robuLAB¹⁰, which anticipates the future home assistant robots for the elderly, is presented in 2 versions at the « Palais des Congrès » of Paris

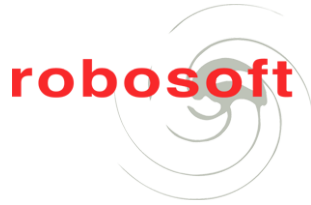
Paris, July 7th, 2009: At the 19th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics., ROBOSOFT présente RobuLAB¹⁰ to the international medical community. RobuLAB¹⁰ is a home centric robot aiming at assisting elderly in their home. The robuLAB¹⁰ is presented in 2 versions : cognitive assistance and physical assistance. These research projects, supported by the public authorities through the French National Research Agency (ANR) and the National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy (CNSA), are carried out in collaboration with many scientific partners, the historic one being ISIR (Institut des Systèmes Intelligents et de Robotique), a research laboratory at the Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris.

« The assistance robots represent major scientific stakes, in which ISIR is particularly committed » states Philippe Bidaud, its director. « The companion robots, with true capabilities of interactivity and autonomy, raise fundamental research issues on mobility, multimodal and artificial perception, behavior analysis, interpretation and reasoning. We are involved in cooperative projects with health professionals. These projects are funded by French National Research Agency and European Commission, . Regarding robotic technologies, we have a partnership with ROBOSOFT since a long time ».

« We have among our top priorities the market of home centric robots for the elderly» states Vincent Dupourqué, CEO of ROBOSOFT. «It is very important for us to work with scientific partners helping us to define, develop and validate the robots of the future. The cooperative projects are particularly well suited for that » .

ISIR carries out high level research work in the field of artificial perception, visual, sound and haptic for people localization, to follow them and analyze their movements, the extraction of features for diagnosis purposes etc .. ISIR is also involved the active compensation of the postural balance, research work which is also much important in the development of such companion robots.

The robuLAB¹⁰ is a robot intended for research, i.e open, flexible and modular, especially at the software level thanks to its robuBOX, the core robotic technology of ROBOSOFT. A special version of the robuLAB¹⁰, called « healthcare », is available to develop prototypes of assistant robots for the elderly, to run field tests and pilot sites. The robuLAB¹⁰ anticipates the first robots for cognitive and physical assistance which may be commercially available within one year or two, and become as necessary in the daily life as the mobile phones.



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About robuBOX

The launching of the development of the robuBOX took place in 2006. Several robots equipped with preliminary versions of the robuBOX were already deployed: robuRIDE and robuCAB, 2 automatic vehicles guided by GPS, as well as generic mobile platforms like the robuLAB10 or the robuROC for security and military applications.

The robuBOX, which allows the customers to build many solutions of advanced robotics, was developed and can be modified thanks to the environment Microsoft® Robotics Developer Studio (see <http://www.microsoft.com/robotics>).

About ROBOSOFT

ROBOSOFT is the European leader in service robot solutions. With over 20 years of scientific and industrial expertise in this domain, ROBOSOFT has been supplying advanced robotics solutions in the transportation, security, cleaning, supervision, health and research industries since 1985.

Beyond professional applications, the era of personal robotics is approaching fast. ROBOSOFT believes that its service robots, called "roboters®", will be part of everyday life within the next five years. According to the Japan Robotics Association's predictions, the world market for service and personal robotics will reach 17 billion dollars by 2010. Roboters will make everybody's life easier in activities such as entertainment, education, culture, health, support for the elderly and the handicapped, etc. In order to make these applications a reality, ROBOSOFT already integrates 80% of programming complexity into its robuBOX, a module programmed using Microsoft Robotics Developer Studio (<http://www.microsoft.com/robotics>). robuBOX is already incorporated into the heart of ROBOSOFT robots, but can also be licensed to robotics integrators and manufacturers for mass production.

See: <http://www.robosoft.com>

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About ISIR

ISIR is a research laboratory at the Pierre et Marie Curie University (UPMC) which conducts crossdisciplinary research in complex mechanical systems, systems and control, and signal processing. It pursues the application of robotics and intelligent systems to biology, medicine, and neuroscience through fundamental and applied research. ISIR is associated with (CNRS), or Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. ISIR is a Unité Mixte de Recherche (UMR) where both teaching and research take place.

ISIR was founded in 2007 from the reorganization of the Laboratoire de Robotique de Paris (LRP), the Groupe Perception et Réseaux Connexionnistes du Laboratoire des Instruments et Systèmes d'Ile de France (LISIF), and the AnimatLab group of the Laboratoire d'Informatique de Paris 6 (LIP6).

See : <http://www.robot.jussieu.fr>

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About CNSA

The CNSA (National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy) is the French national referee agency for policies for disabled and ageing people with autonomy loss. It has three main missions:

- To finance services, residences and special allowances for people with autonomy loss.
- To guarantee territorial equity: the CNSA monitors the equal treatment in the French territory. It is responsible for guaranteeing equal distribution of funds for services offered to disabled and dependent elderly people.
- To inform, lead and provide its partners, MDPH (disable people local center) network especially, with expertise.

In 2009, CNSA manages a budget of 18.7 billions euros (9.8 billions intended for the elderly and 8.9 billions intended for the handicapped people).

See : <http://www.cnsa.fr/>

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