

ESTELE,
a remote tele-echography robot
revolutionizes telemedicine



Press release



The robuter odyssey

Microsoft Robotic Studio partner

Press release

ESTELE, a name that will be discussed during Med-e-Tel on April 18-20th 2007 in Luxembourg.

Robosoft will remember this prime time media coverage!
ESTELE, Robosoft's abdominal and fetal tele-echography robot, had massive media consideration, thanks to Pr Arbeille live demonstration.

Bill Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation, will remember Robosoft's ESTELE too. He took time to discover the robot during Microsoft's Innovation Day in Brussels in fall 2006. MS Innovation Day is an event dedicated to giving a sneak preview of tomorrow's technologies to government leaders, academic, industry stakeholders and media. During this demonstration, Gates was joined by M. Matti Vanhanen -Finland's Prime Minister and current President of the European Union-, Charles Leadbeater- Innovation Adviser to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair - as well as the politic leaders/managers of the European Union.



Media presentation of ESTELE by Professor Arbeille



Vincent Dupourque presenting ESTELE to Bill Gates at Innovation Day

Vincent Dupourqué, CEO of ROBOSOFT, the European leader in service robotics, points out that his company is in the core of innovation's best with its service robots that allow substantial improvement for everybody's life.

In this case, with ESTELE, those improvements are also tangible for healthcare professionals.

First results of ESTELE are improvements and bargains on:

- quality care for patients anytime and anywhere
- waiting time for patients
- threats linked with conveying (tire, stress, road threats...)
- time for physician (who does not have to travel towards the patient in case of emergency)
- healthcare expenses for Social security (no ambulance, simplified emergency procedures)

ESTELE implements robuBOX™ leading technology of ROBOSOFT

This concept of tele-echography, validated by the LVR (Robotics & Vision Laboratory) of Bourges, on an original idea of Professor Arbeille and carried out first by the European Spatial Agency and the CNES, has been industrialized by ROBOSOFT, who, thanks to its experience in service robotics, succeeded in developing and producing off the shelf robots.

Actualités SANTÉ

Premières échographies à distance

Un bras robotisé et un dispositif de visioconférence remplacent le médecin.

Plus besoin de se rendre dans une clinique ou un centre de radiologie pour bénéficier d'une échographie : au centre hospitalier régional et universitaire de Tours, le radiologue Philippe Arbeille a monté avec succès le premier projet français de télé-échographie. Concrètement, vous avez mal au ventre et une échographie vous est prescrite afin de vérifier si votre cas (occlusion intestinale, appendicite...) exige de prendre des dispositions d'urgence. Le médecin qui va pratiquer l'examen ne sera pas à vos côtés : il est remplacé par un bras robotisé, solidaire d'une sonde à ultrasons disposée sur votre ventre par une infirmière, conformément aux informations du médecin qui communique avec elle par visioconférence téléphonique. « Le dispositif permet d'imprimer à distance les mouvements de la main du médecin », détaille le Pr Arbeille. Objectif :



Les gestes du médecin sont réalisés par le robot.

pallier la pénurie de radiologues dans les petits hôpitaux et éviter aux patients des déplacements inutiles. « Nous avons testé l'efficacité du dispositif auprès de 250 patients sans aucun faux diagnostic, détaille le radiologue. Avec le feu vert de l'Agence régionale d'hospitalisation, nous sommes maintenant opérationnels pour la réalisation d'échographies abdominales mais aussi obstétricales. » En pratique, les malades résidant près d'Amboise, Vendôme ou Loches, n'auront plus à effectuer inutilement les quarante kilomètres en moyenne qui les séparent de Tours ou de Bourges. Les clichés seront lus à distance et en direct. Selon les résultats, il sera ensuite décidé de garder le patient, ou de le laisser regagner son domicile en toute tranquillité. « Le bras mis au point par la société Robosoft présente la particularité d'être compatible avec les sondes de tous les échographes », précise le Pr Philippe Arbeille. Déjà des applications sont prévues pour des zones encore plus isolées comme certains villages de Guyane ou des basses scientifiques polaires. S. R.-M.



ESTELE
tele-echography robot

press coverage
« Sciences & Avenir »

One of ESTELE characteristics is to incorporate the leading technology of ROBOSOFT, RobuBOX®, developed with Microsoft Robotics Studio. This technology allowed to quickly finalize development and industrialization of this new healthcare robot.

ROBOSOFT is now considering wide deployment of this promising product in 2007 with clear interest from hospitals and others healthcare centers, but also first aid organizations anywhere in the world.

Service robots « Robuters® », will be part of everyday life by 2011



With ESTELE, ROBOSOFT demonstrates that a tele-echography robot can be used anywhere in the world, by any medical assistant and operated by a specialist from his desk, using available data transmission systems. Thus the latest medical advances and the highest levels of expertise are no longer out of reach of less industrialized countries.

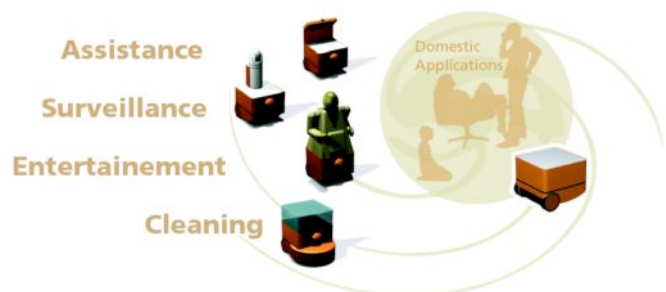


ROBOSOFT predicts that by 2011, service robots so-called « Robuters® » will be part of people's everyday life.

This vision is in sync with reality in which the ageing population means fewer workers and more retired persons.

An ageing population requires more services like security, cleaning or short-distance transport. Robuters® will help elderly wanting to stay at home as long as possible, helping them to move and communicate with their relatives. Today, such Robuters® already allow grandparents to stay permanently connected to their families who care for them, using UMTS telephones.

Mr. Dupourqué predicts that by 2011, Robuters® will be part of everyday life, exactly the same way computers are part of their life today. "2011, the Robuter® Odyssey!" Mr. Dupourqué is calling European research and industry to take up the challenge with him.



The « robuter odyssey »

ROBOSOFT conceives, creates, produces and distributes today's professional robots and tomorrow's consumer robots, Robuters®, to make people's life easier.

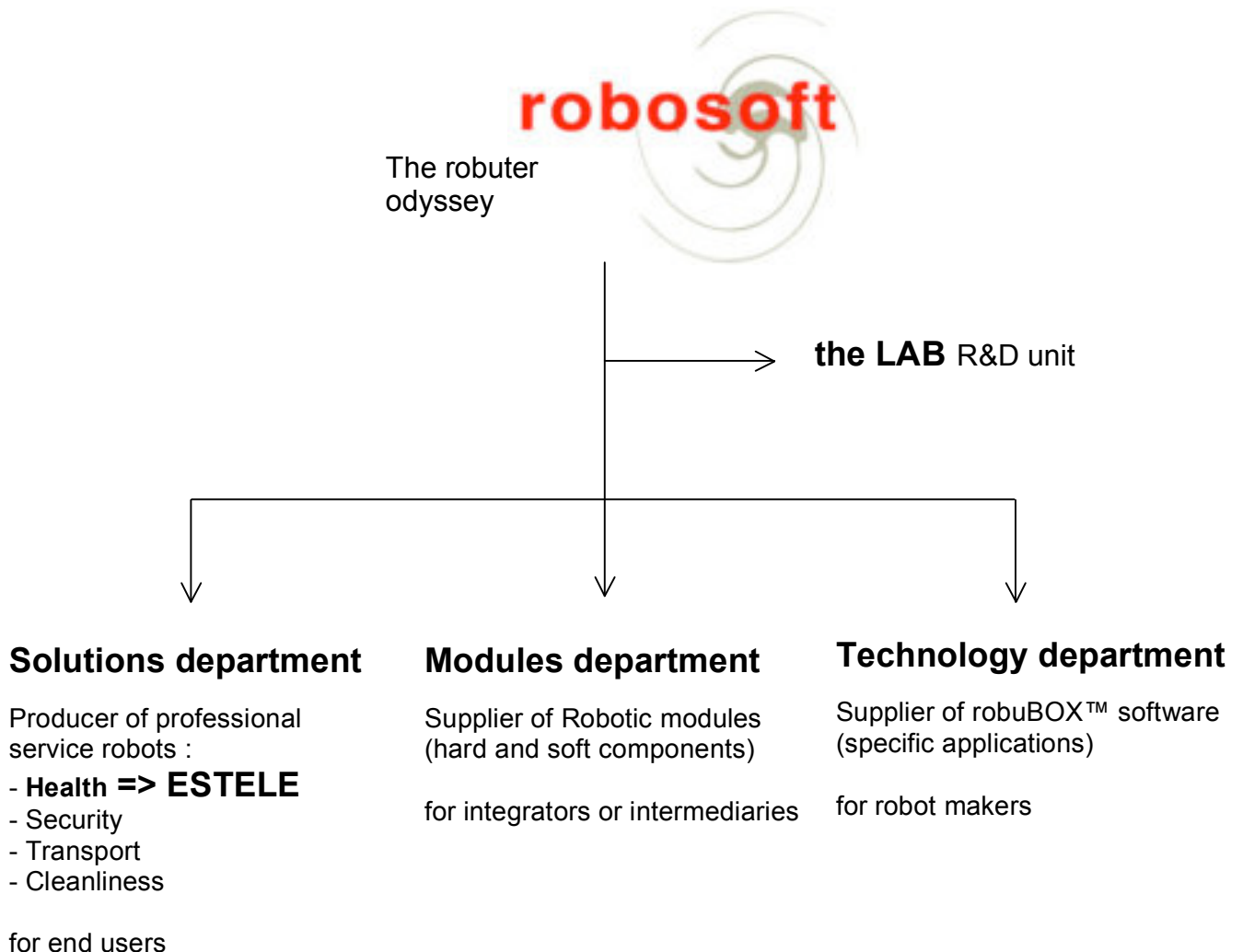
ROBOSOFT always defended the idea that software for robots is not software for PC. Today that is obvious for everybody.

In the same way, we can assert that ROBOSOFT is to the robot what MICROSOFT is to the computer.

The LAB, the R&D section of the company, designs and develops software that will animate robots of tomorrow; either Robosoft's own robots (solutions department), partners integrators' ones (modules department) or robot makers' ones (technology department).

The future views of ROBOSOFT and MICROSOFT are converging.

That is why both companies became partners for the best of robotics, to develop by 2011 numerous applications like people assistance, education, supervision, security, health, transportation...



ROBOSOFT and Microsoft common view

ROBOSOFT announced its support for Microsoft Robotics Studio, a new tool based on Windows, for developers, amateurs and professionals, to easily create robotic applications for a wide range of computing platforms.

ROBOSOFT, partner of Microsoft, provides a first range of professional service robots compatible with MICROSOFT ROBOTICS STUDIO, an advanced robotics control software (robuBOX®) developed with MICROSOFT ROBOTICS STUDIO to quickly design powerful mobile robots and free tutorials to build simulations of existing robots.

“As soon as we evaluated Microsoft Robotics Studio, we decided to immediately use it for all our robotic software developments”, says Vincent Dupourqué, CEO of ROBOSOFT. “Microsoft Robotics Studio, with its advanced simulation tools, and its capability to deploy distributed applications allows our engineers and customers to develop reliable applications much faster than ever.”

« We have been nicely surprised by the quick results obtained by ROBOSOFT in such a short time,” says Tandy Trower, general manager of the Microsoft Robotics Group at Microsoft Corp. “This demonstrates how flexible Microsoft Robotics Studio is and what a seasoned robotic company such as ROBOSOFT can do with it. In particular, we expect both Microsoft Robotics Studio and ROBOSOFT’s robuBOX® to rapidly become a must-have for robotics engineers to seamlessly build powerful robotic solutions in various industrial and domestic applications. »



Vincent DUPOURQUÉ,
CEO of ROBOSOFT and Bill GATES

Robot software is no PC software

Robotics requires different software from computers: real time management which is the base of all robotics algorithms and robustness are their two main characteristics.

ROBOSOFT already provides a range of robots entirely programmed with MICROSOFT ROBOTICS STUDIO, ready to use for various robotics applications.

Robots available to date are:

- robuLAB, an indoor platform for research, automated transportation of goods (hospitals, warehouses), supervision or entertainment application ;
- robuROC, an outdoor platform for military and security applications
- robuARM, a robotic arm with 6 degrees freedom designed to be embedded on mobile platforms
- robuCAB, a robot for automatic people transportation

On the other hand, ROBOSOFT provides the robuBOX®, a generic and advanced robotics controller software, developed with Microsoft Robotics Studio and implementing high-level mobile robotic functions like path generation and following, obstacle avoidance, localization... It aims at quickly robotizing any type of mobile platforms and vehicles. The robuBOX® provides integrators and manufacturers with an off-the-shelf set of software modules to quickly build standalone or fleets of service robots, such as AGV (Automatic Guided Vehicles), scrubbing machines, golf cars, and so on...

ROBOSOFT also provides a set of tutorials for Microsoft Robotics Studio showing how to build models of real robots for simulations.

More informations about ROBOSOFT's support for MICROSOFT ROBOTICS STUDIO at :
<http://www.robosoft.com/>

Contacts

Robosoft
Vincent Dupourqué
CEO
Technopole d'Izarbel
F-64210 Bidart
Tel : +33 (0) 5 59 41 53 60
E-mail : vincent.dupourque@robosoft.fr

The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.