

INVITATION

TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EUROPEAN ROBOTICS FORUM 2016 AND THE PRESS CONFERENCE

Monday, 21 March 2016, at 10.45 a.m.

Slovenia will host the **European Robotics Forum 2016 (ERF 2016)**, which is to take place from **21 to 23 March at Cankarjev dom**. The event is organised by euRobotics AISBL, a Brussels-based international non-profit association for all stakeholders in the European robotics sector that brings together European science and industry in the field of robotics. This year the most important European networking event in the field of robotics will be attended by over 600 participants – researchers, engineers, managers, as well as a significant number of entrepreneurs and businessmen from all over Europe.

The official opening of the event will begin on Monday, 21 March, at 10.45 a.m. in Cankarjev dom's Linhartova dvorana. The event will be opened by the honorary guests:

- **Dr. Maja Makovec Brenčič**, Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Slovenia
- **Bernd Liepert**, President of euRobotics AISBL and Head of Innovations in the company KUKA
- **Dr. Zoran Stančič**, Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovenia
- **Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of Regions
- **Khalil Rouhana**, European Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect)
- **Mady Delvaux**, European Parliament member from Luxemburg
- **Matteo Fusari**, European Investment Bank
- **Jasper Wesseling**, Ministry of Economy of the Netherlands

The press conference will take place after the official opening of the European Robotics Forum 2016, at 12.30 p.m. in Cankarjev dom's M4.

Presentations will be given by the following speakers: **Bernd Liepert**, President of euRobotics AISBL and Head of Innovations in the company KUKA; **Dr. Zoran Stančič**, Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovenia; **Markku Markkula**, President of the European Committee of Regions; **Khalil Rouhana**, European Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect); **Mady Delvaux**, European Parliament member from Luxemburg; **Matteo Fusari**, European Investment Bank; **Jasper Wesseling**, Ministry of Economy of the Netherlands and **dr. Aleš Ude**, Jožef Stefan Institute.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN ROBOTICS FORUM 2016 AND THE ACCOMPANYING EXHIBITION

The first lecture, to be given before the Forum is officially opened by the leading representatives of EU institutions and the Slovenian government, will focus on public procurement in relation to robotics and care for the elderly. Subjects following the official opening will be robotics in Slovenia led by Prof. Dr. Marko Munih, Head of the Laboratory for Robotics (Robolab) at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana, and robotics in the Western Balkans, chaired by Dr. Uwe Haass, consultant to euRobotics and until recently the first Secretary General of the association.

The second day of the forum will be dedicated to digitising European industry, a project proposed by the European Commission. The representatives of international organisations will present projects that receive €700 million funding from the EU within the framework of the Public-Private Partnership for Robotics called SPARC. Also receiving triple that amount from European industry, SPARC is the largest civilian-funded robotics innovation robotics programme in the world.

The third day of the event will focus on discussing new funding opportunities for robotics projects, on robotics and the internet of things, on the progress made in science with regard to the possibilities of robot reproduction, as well as on efficient robot programming.

The entire programme is available [here](#).

The grand reception hall on the first floor will house a robotics exhibition featuring a number of companies, including Yaskawa Europe and its Ribnica-based subsidiary Yaskawa Slovenija, which is expecting to receive this year's biggest foreign investment in Slovenia. Other collaborating partners in the exhibitions include ABB, Fanuc, IDMIND, incubed IT, iniLabs, Joanneum Research, GC tronic, KUKA, NCCR Robotics, Nova Labs, Optoforce, Ortelio Ltd, PAL Robotics, Robotnik, Schunk, Shadow

Robot Company, Taurob, The Biorobotics Institute – Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, University in Zagreb – Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Authorities on robotics from Slovenia will participate in the event as well, e.g. the companies Daihen Varstroj, Kolektor, L-TEK, RLS Merilna tehnika, and others.

Slovenian partners in organising the European Robotics Forum 2016 are, among others, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering (University of Ljubljana), Jožef Stefan Institute (IJS) and Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU).

The list of exhibitors is available [here](#).

The Workshop Digest is available [here](#).

If you wish to record the robotics exhibition or obtain press accreditation for the entire event, please contact us at alja.gogala@idejal.si.

Further information:

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You are kindly invited to confirm your participation at the official opening of the event or the press conference until Friday, 18 March, at: alja.gogala@idejal.si

The European Robotics Forum 2016 is organised by euRobotics AISBL

Local organisers 2016 are the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and “Jožef Stefan” Institute

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