

Brussels, 17 December 2013

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Contract between the private side (euRobotics AISBL) and the public side (European Union) signed to boost robotics as part of EU Industrial Leadership initiative**

The European Commission today signed the contract for a Public Private Partnership with euRobotics AISBL for a strategic alliance in robotics. The partnership will leverage more than €700 million of public investments to be allocated through calls for proposals under Horizon 2020, the new EU programme for research and innovation. Each euro of public funding is expected to trigger additional investments of three or more Euro to develop new robotic technologies, products and services which will give European industry a leading position on world markets.

The ceremony included the signature on the contracts for seven other programmes running under Public Private Partnerships, such as Factories of the Future (FoF), Energy-efficient Buildings (EeB), European Green Vehicles Initiative (EGVI), Sustainable Process Industry (SPIRE), Photonics, High Performance Computing (HPC), and Advanced 5G networks for the Future Internet (5G).

Vice President Neelie Kroes, Commissioner responsible for the Digital Agenda, signed the contract together with Bernd Liepert, President of euRobotics AISBL. She said: *"This is a great opportunity for Europe. These PPPs will maintain our global lead in robotics, photonics, high performance computing, telecoms and give us a head start in smart cities, intelligent transport, education, entertainment, media and other promising markets. Combined with a comprehensive industrial strategy, the PPPs will ensure vigorous European leadership and a better future for all."*

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: *"Europe needs industry to innovate to create income and jobs. New technologies and products, such as green cars, energy efficient buildings and cleaner manufacturing processes, are essential to address societal challenges such as climate change, energy and resource efficiency. We want these contractual PPPs to have a substantial impact on the competitiveness of the EU industry, on sustainable economic growth and the creation of new high-skilled jobs in Europe."*

## Background

The PPPs are based on roadmaps for research and innovation activities which are the result of an open consultation process, and which have been positively evaluated by the European Commission with the help of independent experts.

Whereas three of the PPPs (factories of the future, buildings and green cars) were first established in 2009, the PPP on Robotics belongs to the newly established initiatives. In order to sign a contract, a robotics organisation - being a legal entity and representing the stakeholders in Europe - was needed. This organisation is euRobotics AISBL, legally established on 17 Sep 2012 in Brussels after one year of preparations. To show its willingness to collaborate towards a contractual PPP, one day after its establishment, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with euRobotics AISBL on 18 Sep. 2012. Within the subsequent 10 months, the programme for the PPP in Robotics was prepared. Signing the formal contract on 17 December 2013 is a milestone for European robotics.

The contractual PPPs do not organise their own calls but funding is awarded by the Commission through open calls under the Horizon 2020 Work Programme. The first Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2014-15, published on 11 December, foresees around €1.45 billion for the eight contractual Public-Private Partnerships.

Dr. Uwe Haass  
Secretary General

euRobotics aisbl is registered as an international non-profit association according to Belgian law on 19 Nov. 2012, No. 0.500.791.964

**Secretary General**

Dr. Uwe Haass

**President:**

Dr. Bernd Liepert

**Contact:**

[Uwe.Haass@eu-robotics.net](mailto:Uwe.Haass@eu-robotics.net)

Phone +32 2 7 06 82-22

Fax +32 2 7 06 82-23

**Address:**

Boulevard A. Reyers 80

Diamant Building

B-1030 Brussels, Belgium