Candidates for the election of 8 Board members in 2022

Candidates for the election of 8 Board members in 2022

Introduction

Elections for 8 seats on the Board will be held at the General Assembly (GA) which is held on **27 June** 2022 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 14:30-17:30 CEST.

The Board exists to direct and coordinate the activities of euRobotics. Since euRobotics exists to serve its Members' interests, the Board's composition is chosen to represent all its Members. The Board is currently made up of 24 Directors including the Vice Presidents (VPs) and Treasurer, but excluding the President. One third of the Directors is elected each year, on a first in, first out basis. This includes one of the VPs or Treasurer. This cycle ensures that at least two thirds of the Board, and two thirds of the Executive Team (ExT), are able to offer their experience and continuity to the Board's business either side of an election. The term of office on the Board is therefore three years, providing you continue to meet the requirements for being a Director. Re-election is possible.

The VP roles (one each for Research and Industry) are filled by election from within the Board. VPs are typically experienced Board members and senior representatives of the whole Board. Because VPs are more likely to be asked to represent euRobotics at external events, and have a larger role in coordinating the Board as a whole, Board members who accept nomination for these roles must consider whether they have the time and availability to fulfil it. The Treasurer is also elected from the Board, usually from the Industry side, and is typically a manager or director of another organisation, and is used to dealing with basic financial matters, accounts etc. This role also has greater demands on post-holder's time.

The Executive Team (ExT) of 6 Directors has been in place, comprised of the VPs and Treasurer and three other Directors. They are expected to contribute as much as one day per week to euRobotics work.

Voting is done separately for the categories Industry and Research. Each Member with voting rights may cast a number of votes equal to the number of Directors to be elected in the Member's category. A member may not cast more than one vote for each candidate.

Current members

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	Category [1]	Comment
Agirre Ibarbia *	Jon	Tecnalia	Res, RTO	ExT member
Belbachir	Nabil	NORCE	Res, RTO	
Bischoff *	Rainer	Intrinsic	Ind, P	VP Industry
Bisset	David	iTechnic	Ind, RM-SME	ExT member
Calva	Mauricio	Chevron North Sea	Ind, P-E	
Champion	Renaud	Primnext	Ind, P-SME	
Ferro	Francesco	PAL Robotics S.L.	Ind, RM-SME	
Hadziselimovic	Maja	SKAN, previously MRK Systeme	Ind, P	
Koudelkova-Delimoges	Petra	Previously AnotherBrain	Ind, RM-SME	
Kraus *	Werner	Fraunhofer IPA	Res, RTO	
Leroux	Christophe	CEA	Res, RTO	
Nikolakopoulos	George	Lulea University of Technology	Res, HES	
Pegman	Geoff	R U Robots Limited	Ind, RM-SME	Treasurer
Rocco	Paolo	Politecnico di Milano	Res, HES	
Röning	Juha	University of Oulu, Finland	Res, HES	ExT member
Saenz	José	Fraunhofer IFF	Res, RTO	
Saffiotti **	Alessandro	University of Örebro, Sweden	Res, HES	
Stancu *	Ana-Maria	Bucharest Promo Robotics	Ind, P-SME	
Stramigioli	Stefano	University of Twente	Res, HES	VP Research
Viguria	Antidio	FADA-CATEC	Res, RTO	
Vincze *	Markus	Technische Universität Wien	Res, HES	
Wagner	Kristina	KUKA	Ind, RM	
Walker *	Rich	The Shadow Robot Company	Ind, RM-SME	
Waltenberger *	Anne	ABB	Ind, RM	

* Term ends in 2022, standing in for re-election

** Term ends in 2022

[1] Definition of membership categories:

RM:	Robot Manufacturer (large company)
RM-SME:	Robot Manufacturer (Small or Medium sized Enterprise) NB: SME is also used for other Industry categories
P:	Partner Company (e.g., supplier of robot manufacturers)
P-E:	Partner Company – End user of robotics
RTO:	Research Technology Organisations (such as non-university research organisations)
HES:	Higher Education Establishments (such as Universities)

Standing members

euRobotics asked for candidates to stand in for election as an euRobotics Director. The following pages show the candidate lists for the categories Industry and Research as well as the individual profiles.

Table 1: Candidates from Industry, to be voted by Members from Industry

Table 2: Candidates from Research, to be voted by Members from Research

Candidates from Industry

Bischoff, Rainer

euRobotics AISBL Member: Intrinsic Innovation GmbH

Membership Category: Industry, P

Current position within euRobotics AISBL:
Director, Vice President Industry since 2012
As VP Industry also member of the Executive Team (ExT)

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
As VP Industry supervising all operations of the association, overseeing activities of the Board of Directors and strategic partnerships; weekly teleconferences with the Executive Team and regular physical meetings whenever needed to provide guidance to the team; driving industry topics and contributing with an industrial mindset in discussions on strategy and research priorities; promoting collaboration between research and industry, emphasising both the need for basic research and practical relevance, thereby bridging the gap to commercial exploitability; representing euRobotics at political levels and major conferences.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

- Continuously improve our assets and create new services in response to our member needs
- Create a more effective, efficient, transparent and sustainable association
- Contribute to European robotics excellence by developing strategic research and innovation agendas and fostering their implementation
- Shape Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programmes for the benefit of robotics & AI
- Promote industry-academia collaboration and partnerships beyond European framework programmes

Short CV:

Dr. Rainer Bischoff is the Head of Product at Intrinsic, a robotics software and AI moonshot from X, Alphabet's moonshot factory. Intrinsic aims to unlock the creative and economic potential of industrial robotics for businesses, entrepreneurs and developers by making industrial robots easier to use and train. Dr. Bischoff has over two decades of experience bridging the gap between academia and industry to spur innovation in robotics. He holds dozens of patents and his innovations include safe and intuitive human-robot interaction and collaboration, industrial and service robotics, and mobile robotics. Prior to joining Intrinsic in 2020, Dr. Bischoff was Vice President of Corporate Research at KUKA where he led research and technology development for future robotics products, solutions, and services. He serves as Vice President Industry of euRobotics AISBL – the European robotics association he helped to create to unite European roboticists and to engage in a public-private partnership with the European Commission. For leadership and outstanding contributions to the cooperation of academia and industry, and for managing and promoting significant technology transfer in the area of industrial and service robotics he was granted the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Early Career Award in 2012. In 2015, he received the IROS Toshio Fukuda Young Professional Award for his technical contributions to the personal robotic assistant *HERMES* and his effort in uniting the European robotics community.

Mechelinck, Mare

euRobotics AISBL Member: UKA - Hospital Aachen

Membership Category: P-E

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Member

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:

I am currently active in supporting the Office Team, for example with improving the web presence of euRobotics. Since the ERF in 2019, I have participated in all ERF events and supported numerous ERF workshops.

I would like to help increase the activity of end-users within euRobotics and thus encourage projects with a market pull. I would also like to support the healthcare topic group with an end-user perspective. Overall, I would be please to actively help shaping the path of the association and promote the deployment of robotics in Europe.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

- Foster the active involvement of robotic end-users in the association.
- Promote the exchange between the different focus areas of euRobotics.
- Advancing robotics in the healthcare sector.

Background to the mentioned priorities: as a medical doctor, I have personally experienced the increasing shortage of skilled workers. With an ageing society, this gives me cause for concern. Even without a pandemic, I wonder how we can ensure an excellent health system in the future. In my point of view, this is not possible without the integration and use of robotics. After all, digitalisation and artificial intelligence alone cannot support the numerous physical tasks in the clinics. However, over the past years, I have learned that implementing robotics into hospitals is not an easy task. To be truly successful, it is not enough for industry and research to come up with excellent ideas and innovative solutions, but the users must also see the need, be ready for the change and commit to it. This is where euRobotics can make a big difference. The need for cooperation and involvement of end-users does of course not only apply to the healthcare sector, but to all fields of application. I am convinced that the different focus areas can mutually benefit from the learnings on end-user involvement. I would like to support this exchange and knowledge transfer.

Short CV:

I am a specialist in anaesthesiology and work in the Department of Anaesthesiology of the Universitätsklinikum Aachen, Germany. In my research, I have devoted myself not only to clinical issues in the cardiac field, but also to technical aspects such as the control of cardiac support systems and the advancement of robotics in healthcare. Enthusiastic about robotics, I have been responsible for the European project DIH-HERO on the part of the Universitätsklinikum Aachen since the start of the project in 2019. In order to advance robotics, I co-founded the non-profit association 'AI and Robotics in Healthcare e.V.' in 2020 and have been active on its board since the beginning. As a Dutch citizen, I am now pleased to be allowed to run for office in Rotterdam.

Stancu, Ana-Maria

euRobotics AISBL Member: SC Bucharest Promo Robots

Membership Category[2]): Industry, SME, P

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Director, Coordinator of Topic Group Education since 2019

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
I am currently a member of the Board and coordinator of the Topic Group Education. In my mandate I pursued several objectives:

First, as Board member, I worked towards **promoting the values and activities of the organization towards the EU institutions**. My focus has been liaising with EU decision makers to raise awareness of the impact of robotics on robotics, society and labour market. Since last year, I have been a member of the roundtable on EdTech organized by Commissioner Mariya Gabriel and I advocated for the use of robotics in education.

Second, I **empowered and engaged in the activities of the Education Topic Group** (such as the European Robotics Week) by creating synergies with the above-mentioned EU promotion efforts. In this respect, I have been closely collaborating with MEP Victor Negrescu to improve access to robotics and foster digitalisation of education in Romania and not only.

Third, during the pandemics I contributed to identifying robotics solutions and carried **on EU-wide communications** regarding the help robots could bring in such times. In this regard, I am very active in promoting women in robotics and I have been a regular contributor to the euRobotics newsletter. As member in different robotics projects and expert on digital education, I am regularly presenting at national and EU events and in the media the power of STEAM education and the importance of preparing students for the future of work.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

- To communicate with our members in general or with specific Topic Groups to make sure their requests are taken into account
- To promote the activities of euRobotics outside our network and to the European Commission high level representatives (Commissioners, MEPs)
- To promote robotics and to fight disinformation regarding this field

Short CV:

2018 – present – CEO of Bucharest Promo Robots – the first Romanian Start-Up that offers rental and purchase of humanoid robots and prototyping
2009 – present – President of E-Civis, local organizer for the European Robotics Forum 2019 in Romania and National coordinator for European Robotics Week
2007-2009 – Executive Director for the largest civic NGO in Romania, Pro Democracy Association, coordinating over 10 employees, 30 branches and fundraising and administrating over 2 million USD budget
2001 – 2007 – Project Manager Pro Democracy Association

Tomatis , Nicola

euRobotics AISBL Member: BlueBotics SA – www.bluebotics.com –

Membership Category: Industry / RM + P + SME

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Director, SME representative

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:

I'm currently member of the euRobotics AISBL. Until 2021, I was active as Director. In this role, I was participating to the regular strategic activities of the Board. Since 2019, I was also involved in the Marketing & Communication group defining both the marketing strategy to better understand and serve the members as well as the communication of the association's core vision, mission and values towards the community and the general public.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

euRobotics has the great opportunity to place itself as the key organization bridging large companies, SMEs and academia thus helping increasing Europe's leadership in robotics. Today, I think this requires to improve the organization in order to refocus the effort towards this great goal.

I'm then a firm believer that euRobotics should become a sustainable, independent association, which can really concentrate on the success of European robotics. I'm therefore actively promoting this approach within the Board, the members and the community in general.

Short CV:

Nicola Tomatis (1973) received his M.Sc. in computer science in 1998 from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich and his Ph.D. in robotics in 2001 from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) Lausanne. He had a part time position as senior researcher with the Autonomous Systems Lab, EPFL (now ETH). During 2001 he joined BlueBotics SA as R&D manager, became CEO in 2003 and entered the Board of Directors in 2015. Nicola received the IEEE Early Career Award in Robotics and Automation (2008), was listed in the 300 most influential persons of Switzerland (2010 and 2012), he seats in the Advisory Board of the Credit Suisse Thematic Equity, and was part of the Board of Directors of the euRobotics aisbl from 2012 to 2021.

Walker, Rich

euRobotics AISBL Member: Shadow Robot Company, Shadow Robot España

Membership Category: RM-SME

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Director, delegated Adra Director

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
I am currently active as the Chair of the ERF Program Committee, in several Board Working Groups (Communications, Topic Groups), and as one of the delegated Directors from euRobotics to Adra, where I chair the Board.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

As the relationship between euRobotics and the European Commission evolves following the end of the SPARC PPP and the creation of the ADR PPP, it is important that euRobotics offers significant benefits to its members. Also, as an SME director, it is important to me that euRobotics offers value as well. Meanwhile we must continue to build the Robotics part of the new PPP, which I have been heavily engaged in, as well as build links to the other organizations in related technology areas.

Looking at the wider scope, I believe we should focus on the following:

Europe should achieve AI sovereignty and reduce our dependency on non-European hardware and software so that we can have control over our practices and data rights to make Europe better, not just wealthier.

Developing Robotics, AI and Big Data with strong European values at the core will set the tone globally to base them on European social norms which encourages other countries trading in Europe to respect and follow our ethical, technological and security standards - and it may even inspire their own.

We should make it obvious how SME's and researchers can benefit too not just large corporations. A focus on strengthening the collaboration between industry and academia is also advantageous as it enables more sustainable growth.

euRobotics has excellent mechanisms for building and working with our community and we should grow and strengthen these. Finally, I think it is really important that we remember that the reason we all got into robotics is that it is fun, and we should make sure that euRobotics is an enjoyable place to be!

Short CV:

I have worked at Shadow Robot since 1997, and became Managing Director in 2007. It has been my privilege to lead an amazing technology development team and build a world-class innovation organization. I have been involved with national and European technology policy for 15 years, the last 6 as a Director of euRobotics, where I hope I have brought a strong focus on doing what is right for our members.

Waltenberger, Anne Franziska

euRobotics AISBL Member: ABB Robotics

Membership Category: Industry, RM

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Director

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL: Board member and Board Working Group on Communications

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

Robotics is one of the world's most rapidly developing businesses and the center of attention of much of the world's investment community. The technology is also extremely fascinating with the robots of today able to do some very cool things, inside and outside of factories. Lastly – and perhaps most importantly – robots are making a very important contribution to society, not just to industry, both here in Europe and all around the world.

As a Director of the euRobotics Board I see my role in promoting the various benefits of this technology to basically everyone, from kids at school, to the general public, to industrialists and to politicians.

I personally have a true passion for robots and I am truly excited about what will happen in the years to come. I hope I can share this passion and fascination with many more people. Let's write the future. Together.

Short CV:

Born and raised in Augsburg, a 'Robotics town' in Germany, Anne Waltenberger holds a M.A. degree in Linguistics, Psychology and Literature from Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich.

Anne began her career in a consulting business in Switzerland. She later moved on to various Marketing and Communications roles in technology sectors including IT and machinery, both in Germany and in China. She joined the Robotics Division of ABB in 2005 and has held several positions. Today, Anne is the Global Head of Communications for ABB's Robotics business.

Candidates from Research

Agirre Ibarbia, Jon

euRobotics AISBL Member: TECNALIA RESEARCH & INNOVATION, #31

Membership Category[3]): Research Technology Organisation (RTO)

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Member of the Board of Directors (BoD) and member of the Executive Team

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:

I have been active in European Robotics since 2008 as member of the board of EUROP and EURON, organising the first ERF in 2010 in San Sebastian (at that time, EURON-EUROP Joint Annual Meeting) and in the Coordination Actions that supported the generation and growth of both euRobotics and SPARC. I am currently active in the Board, on the following issues:

A) **Member of the Executive Team**. Contributing in all executive matters to manage the Association, under responsibility of the Board of Directors, in implementing the strategy on the long term and supporting in the daily activities carried out by the Association.
B) Robotics **Entrepreneurship** activities : organizing Entrepreneurship ws at ERF since 2010 and as contact of euRobotics with EC Startup Europe action to foster startup activities.
C) **Innovation aspects**, representing euRobotics at different activities and meetings on **DIHs**.
D) **Adra and AI, Data and Robotics PPP**, currently member of Adra BoD representing Robotics.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

euRobotics should continue to provide value to its members from one side by **promoting the excellence in Robotics research programs by engaging through Adra in the development and implementation of Horizon Europe and communicating success and potential impact of robotics in society**. And from the other side, by supporting the **development of new business opportunities for robotics technologies supporting innovation and bridging the gap between research and industry** but also attracting new end user industries in non-traditional sectors where robotics could bring new solutions. In the coming years euRobotics should continue to support the current "digital transformation", especially the AI challenge for European robotics, addressing the deployment of robotics in new sectors, contributing to AI, Data and Robotics partnerships with the European Commission in cooperation with other technology communities including AI, Big Data and IoT. As a Director, I would like to contribute in different sectors (Agile Manufacturing, Health and Construction), and to help our community grow.

Short CV:

Eng. Jon Agirre Ibarbia, graduated in 1991 at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, in Telecommunication Engineering and master on Industrial Software Engineering (1995), at EHU-UPV University. Since 1995, working as co-ordinator of R&D projects related to Automation and Robotics and since 2011 Head of Strategic Research Programmes for Manufacturing and Robotics. Since 2013 until Feb. 2018 was member of the H2020 LEIT-NMBP Advisory Group for the EC. Since 2010, he has organised a series of Entrepreneurship workshops at the European Robotics Forum.

TECNALIA – founding member of euRoboticsl – is the leading private RTO in Spain and the fifth largest in Europe, employs 1475 people (267 PhD holders) with a turnover of 110 M€ in 2018. In H2020 participates in 451 projects (68 coordinated). See two short videos on Tecnalia activities in robotics : 2021 : https://youtu.be/UMIcb_h08mQ & 2020 : https://youtu.be/n8H4Dx8mYvQ

Janik, Karol

euRobotics AISBL Member: Manufacturing Technology Centre

Membership Category: Research - RTO

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Member representing the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), UK

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
I would like to create a Working Group responsible for developing a freely accessible robotics knowledge base that would focus on educating SMEs across Europe. I am currently representing the Manufacturing Technology Centre and contributing to the road mapping process through topic group discussions. I am an active member of the Telerobotics Topic Group and I have been presenting in previous years at ERF workshops.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

Many businesses especially SMEs struggle with starting their robotics journey. One of the key challenges is a lack of education and lack of access to independent guidance. I believe that euRobotics with its unique ecosystem of members and their diverse backgrounds can fill that gap by educating businesses across Europe on the capabilities of AI, Robotics and complementary technologies as well as support bridging the valley of death between research organisations and end-users.

I will create a Working Group that will develop and manage a freely accessible robotics knowledge base distributed through euRobotics and its member networks. This knowledge base built through collaboration between members and input from Topic Groups would cover a broad portfolio of whitepapers, best practice guides, case studies and webinars showcasing the capabilities and benefits of robotics as well as its state of the art in multiple domains.

I think that the euRobotics has been delivering an important mission but it should adapt to the need for sustainable, European technology and look for more ways to continue making a positive impact. euRobotics should explore new ways of engaging with the European robotics community and grow the organisation ecosystem further. I see great potential for the euRobotics to make a bigger influence not only through an advisory role to the European Commission but also through an independent educational role for European businesses. From my experience focusing on the broad adoption of robot-based automation, especially in manufacturing, I can help drive this across the SME community in Europe.

Short CV:
Karol Janik is the Technology Manager at the Manufacturing Technology Centre, an RTO in the UK. He is responsible for the technology development strategy and is focused on the wide adoption of robotics, automation, and intelligent systems in manufacturing and hazardous environments. This includes managing and governing a portfolio of innovation projects delivered by a team of over 50 engineers and researchers. Karol has been working in Research & Development for ten years in multiple industrial sectors including Aerospace, Agritech, Nuclear, Marine & Offshore, and General Manufacturing in Poland, Germany and the UK. He is an active member of the European robotics community and is a member of a few Industrial Advisory Boards for collaborative R&D projects.

Kraus, Werner

euRobotics AISBL Member: Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA, Stuttgart, Germany

Membership Category: RTO

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Director (since June 2019)

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
I am an active board member and typically contributing with market insights from co-authoring the annual IFR report "World Robotics Service Robots". Another activity is the coordination of the euRobotics Technology Transfer Award. Furthermore, I am potential organizer of ERF 2024 in Stuttgart.

I would like to contribute to the roadmap as well as to the Horizon Europe work program via ADRA. With respect to the Testing and Experimentation Facilities within digital Europe I am interested in strengthening the topic group "benchmarking and competition".

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

After a success story of ten years and more than 250 member organisations, the current key challenge of euRobotics is to stay relevant in a changing world. Therefore, I consider the following points as most important ones:

- Address societal **challenges** and deliver robotic **solutions** involving key players in science and industrial partners for deployment and scaling – based on my long experience in the field of technology transfer. Combined with the detailed market knowledge gained through the cooperation with IFR, I see these multi-layered insights into the robotics market and research as a great added value for my role as director.
- Connect into **ecosystems**: With the AI Innovation Centre "Learning Systems and Cognitive Robotics" I am connected to Europe's largest AI research network Cyber Valley. Furthermore, our department at Fraunhofer IPA is part of the large ROS Industrial Initiative and leads its European offshoot.
- Proof ability of **innovation** and **impact**: Here my personal contributions comes from IFR "World Robotics" and the euRobotics Technology Transfer Award.

Short CV:

Dr. Werner Kraus received his degree as Diplom-Ingenieur in mechanical engineering from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in 2011. Since then, he has been with Fraunhofer IPA in different positions and received his PhD on force-control of cable-driven parallel robots in 2015 from the University of Stuttgart. Since June 2019, he is head of the department robot and assistive systems. With a team of 70 colleagues, he is researching and implementing latest robot technologies in industry like for bin picking, small lot size welding, autonomous mobile robots and assembly automation as well as for the service sector, care applications, retail, or agricultural robotics. Since 2019, he has been member in the board of directors of euRobotics, co-chair of IFR service robot working group as well as member of the scientific advisory board at Flanders MAKE.

Law, James

euRobotics AISBL Member: Sheffield Robotics, University of Sheffield

Membership Category: HES

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Active member of Topic Groups in Industrial Robotics, Safety, and Standardisation.

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
I am actively involved in the above Topic Groups and the connected ADRA standardisation community. I am also active in road mapping via the TGs and core euRobotics workshops, presenting the views of the wider UK research community. I routinely participate in euRobotics meetings, and have represented Sheffield Robotics at the General Assembly since 2015.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

Community representation – euRobotics is a large and diverse community, and should reflect the needs and ambitions of its members. Engaging with the membership, providing mechanisms to feedback to the board, and ensuring the diversity of views are considered, is critical. The network must also be able to adapt to changing priorities and global challenges outlined by the membership.

Community support – euRobotics also exists to support its members. I am keen to explore what more can be done to empower members, including increasing accessibility to the network and opportunities, and by providing resources for topic groups and key community activities.

Interdisciplinarity – Robotics is inherently an interdisciplinary activity, and one which increasingly needs to look beyond the technical issues. At ERF 2021 there was a distinct lack of ethical, legal and socio-economic activity (after several years of growth), and I am keen to see this return.

Short CV:

James is Director of Innovation and Knowledge Exchange at Sheffield Robotics, an interdisciplinary research institute with a membership of over 200 academic and senior research staff. He holds a joint appointment between the Department of Computer Science and the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (part of the UK's High Value Manufacturing Catapult) at the University of Sheffield, UK. His role includes research, knowledge exchange, and management, and gives him a keen understanding of the challenges of interdisciplinary research and translation into industry practice.

James is an executive committee member of the UK Robotics and Autonomous Systems Network (UK-RAS), on which he has sat since its creation in 2015. UK-RAS is the primary academic robotics network in the UK, representing 33 research institutions. During his time on the committee, James has been instrumental in tripling the number of members, increasing community engagement and support for grassroots activities, and leading major events (3 international hackathons, 3 national schools robot competitions). He also sits on two UK research council forums representing early-career research communities in engineering and manufacturing. As such, he brings a wealth of relevant expertise to the Board of Directors

Schlette, Christian

euRobotics AISBL Member:
University of Southern Denmark (37)

Membership Category):
Research/HES

Current position within euRobotics AISBL:
- ► Host of European Robotics Forum 2023
- ► Since 2018 – Institutional representative for University of Southern Denmark (37)
- ► 2015/2016 – Institutional representative for Institute for Man-Machine Interaction / RWTH (263)

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
Since 2015, I am representing first RWTH Aachen University, then SDU in the euRobotics community. In this role, I promote euRobotics and ERF as the central network and platform for roboticists in Europe. I am active in TG "Construction", in terms of contributing to the roadmapping process and the organization and moderation of the TG sessions at ERF. I am closely following the activities in TG "Software Engineering, Systems Integration and Systems Engineering" as well as TG "Industrial Robotics".

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:
Trust. Long-lasting relationships with partners, friends and mentors across the European robotics community are a cornerstone of my professional life. Nothing beats a direct and open collaboration based on trust, and networks of trust to explore new joint undertakings. Thus, I consider strengthening and communicating euRobotics as a functioning European network of trust across academia and industry as the most important task. Even in times when the European idea is challenged, our community demonstrates a unique cohesion and solidarity, that however could be improved even further – e.g. by thinking of ways to document and map trust-relationships.

XL production. Beyond "construction", there are industrial sectors with a similar need for novel robotic systems and services to cope with the twin transition of their production of XL products, e.g. the energy sector. I would consider it important to start with onboarding the industrial partners in these sectors, as well as making EU decision makers aware of the largely untapped innovation potential of furthering the robotization of XL production in Europe.

Clarity. I consider it crucially important to provide clear, fair and equal means of navigating opportunities, options and ramifications for euRobotics' members – e.g. by providing glossaries and decision trees for companies interested in Horizon Europe, and by strengthening the accessibility and transparency of TGs.

Short CV:
Christian Schlette is Full professor at the Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Institute (MMMI) at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). Since 2022, he is head of SDU's Center for Large Structure Production (LSP), with the mission to strengthen the robotization, digitalization and green transition of the sectors energy, construction and maritime.

He is responsible for the design and implementation of robotic applications and systems in various national and international research projects, e.g. multi-robot systems, highly redundant manipulators, assembly cells and systems for field robotics, with partners from academia and industry. He joined SDU in 2017 as Associate Professor and became Professor in 2018. Christian received his Dipl.-Ing. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Dortmund, Germany in 2002 and joined the Robotics Research Institute (IRF) in Dortmund as research associate to develop control approaches for industrial multi-robot systems. In 2006, he joined the foundation of the Institute for Man-Machine Interaction (MMI) at RWTH Aachen University, Germany as principal investigator and received his doctorate summa cum laude (Dr.-Ing.) from RWTH Aachen University in 2012. For his thesis, he was awarded the "Borchers medal".

Vincze, Markus

euRobotics AISBL Member: Technische Universität Wien, Automation and Control Institute, Vienna, Austria

Membership Category: HES

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Co-Director of Topic Group AICoR – Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Robotics since 2014, Organiser of ERF 2015, member Board of directors 2015-2017 and 2019-2022

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
I am currently active together with Alessandro Saffiotti to make sure AI and Robotics are highly visibility and the importance of robotics to AI is made evident. We used this work to contribute topics of most relevance between robotics and AI for the first calls in Horizon Europe. We organised multiple workshops at all the past ERFs and again this year. In the board I tried to push towards more transparent management procedures (and could at least improve the situation). I organised the European Robotics Forum ERF in Vienna 2015. I am chair of the Austrian Robotics organisation GMAR to better integrate with the EC and push EC robotics topics. I bid to host ICRA 2026 in Vienna.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

- Transparency and openness of euRobotics, our decision processes, and the role in Adra.
- Balancing roadmap-driven scientific and technology advance while still creating novel scientific ideas to push forward robotics for humans.
- Creating opportunities to move robotics out into the real world with the idea of helping people of all ages with the vision that we will be soon buying useful home robots and other service and industrial robots for the good of people.
- Letting the wider public know what robotics can actually do. Contributing to eliminate fears of novel technologies. Making sure we all work according to highest ethical standards.
- Promoting robots as helpers to European citizens and creating informative events to reach out to the wider public assisting to overcome fears in novel technology.

Short CV:

First diploma in mechanical engineering from Technical University Wien (TU Wien), a M.Sc. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA, PhD at TU Wien in 1993. With a grant from the Austrian Academy of Sciences I worked with Joseph Engelberger at HelpMate Robotics Inc. and at the Vision Laboratory of Gregory Hager at Yale University. In 2004, I obtained my habilitation in robotics. Presently I lead the “Vision for Robotics” laboratory at TU Wien. With Gregory Hager I edited a book on Robust Vision for IEEE and I am (co-)author of over 400 papers. H-index 42, i10-index 165. I was program chair of IEEE ICRA 2013 in Karlsruhe, regularly work as AE for IROS, ICRA, RSS, several journals, and organised EUCog’12, HRI’15, EUCog’16 and many other robotics events. My special interest is to make robots see by developing cognitive computer vision techniques to bring robots to people situated in real-world environments and especially homes.

Vitiello, Nicola

euRobotics AISBL Member: Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy

Membership Category): HSE

Current position within euRobotics AISBL: Currently, I have no position within euRobotics AISBL

Current Activities for euRobotics AISBL:
Currently I am not involved in activities for euRobotics AISBL.

Position Statement: I consider, as Director, these the most important tasks:

- *Basic research is the start*.
  I will represent the need of EU robotics academia to have ambitious programmes for collaborative basic research linking robotics with AI and Data.
- *Impact on society is a must for robotics researchers' community.*
  By leveraging on my personal experience of professor and entrepreneur, I will advise and support euRobotics BoD to draw attention from EU decision makers on the need of specific actions aiming at favour the career of EU talented academicians who dream to become entrepreneurs in the robotics sector.
- *Dreaming an EU Flagship programme for service robotics for sustainable welfare.*
  The ageing EU population showed its fragility during COVID19 pandemic, it is urgent to have a long-term robotics Flagship initiative (conceived and driven by euRobotics community) aiming at fostering a more systematic adoption of robotic technologies in all domains of our society (workplaces, healthcare, wellness, urban services).

Short CV: Nicola Vitiello received the M.Sc. degree in biomedical engineering (cum laude) from the University of Pisa, Italy, in 2006, and from Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (SSSA), Pisa, Italy, in 2007. He also received the Ph.D. degree in Biorobotics from SSSA, Pisa, Italy, in 2010. He is Full Professor with The BioRobotics Institute (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, SSSA, Pisa, Italy) where he leads the Wearable Robotics Laboratory. He is co-author of more than 95 ISI/Scopus papers and co-inventor of more than 20 patents/patent applications. He served as the Scientific Secretary of the EU FP7 CA-RoboCom project, and he was the scientific coordinator of the EU FP7 CYBERLEGs project. Currently he is the scientific coordinator of the H2020-ICT-CYBERLEGs Plus Plus project, the national projects MOTU++ and BioARM, both funded by INAIL, and is partner of the H2020-ICT-REHYB and H2020-ICT-CONBOTS projects. He is co-founder, director and advisor of IUVO Srl, a spin-off company of SSSA active in the field of wearable robotics, which is now a subsidiary company of COMAU, a company of Stellantis group.

End of Document