UK-RAS NETWORK
ROBOTICS & AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

EPSRC
Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

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EPSRC UK-RAS Network News & Highlights

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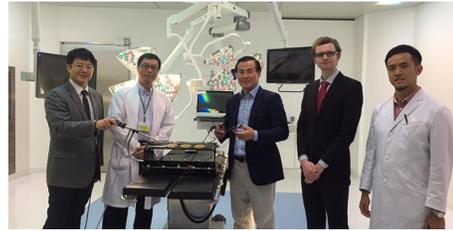* RAS in Challenging Environments EXPO 2016

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Latest News

UK Science and Innovation Network Robotics Mission, Taiwan

Taiwan is renowned for its capacity in chip fabrication and precision manufacturing. Similarly to the UK, robotics and autonomic systems are high on the agenda on its industrial, as well as science and innovation programmes. The UK Foreign and Common Wealth Office (FCO) organised the 2nd Robotics Mission held in Taiwan which coincided with the Taiwan Automation Intelligence and Robot Show (TAIROS), held from 31st August to 3rd September 2016. *Read more*

Innovate UK & EPSRC: £5m Funding Competition for Robotics & Autonomous Systems

Innovate UKand the EPSRC are to invest up to £5 million in innovation projects to encourage innovative applications and stimulate new partnerships across robotics and autonomous systems (RAS).
They are looking for innovators to develop new solutions to existing or emerging problems. Commercially viable RAS solutions often need to combine different technologies to achieve the required performance. This competition aims to support and speed up this work. *Read more*

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Inquiry into Autonomous Vehicles

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee has today launched an inquiry into Autonomous Vehicles. We are coordinating our response so we are asking all members to submit comments to us in the first instance, no later than **Friday 21st October 2016**.

Please follow the link below to access the Call for Evidence which outlines the scope of the inquiry and invites written submissions. *Read more*

UK Robotics Week 2017 - Call for Events

We are gearing up for the launch of the UK Robotics Week 2017 event. Last year we compiled an extensive programme of events and we hope to do the same for next year. If you would like to have your event included in the programme please complete this online form providing some outline details. *Event details form.* Please note the deadline for submissions is *14th October 2016*.

The first UK Robotics Week was held this year, 25th June - 1st July 2016. The week attracted international media coverage and participation from members of the public, industry and academia through a variety of events, which included competitions, exhibitions, festivals, demonstrations and public lectures. *Read more*

RAS in Challenging Environments EXPO 2016

Challenging environments exist across sectors and

share common technologies and issues.

RAS in Challenging Environments Expo16 provides the exclusive opportunity to:

- network within the diverse RAS community
- explore innovative real-world RAS applications
- realise the potential of cross sector collaborations. *Read more*

Highlights

Oxford's autonomous vehicle technology showcased at Shell Eco-marathon

The mobile autonomy system being developed by Oxford University's world-leading Mobile Robotics Group has been demonstrated at this year's Shell Eco-marathon Europe. The event was held the Olympic Park and took place as part of Make the Future London from 30 June to 3 July. It is a unique competition that challenges students around the world to design, build and drive the most energy-efficient car. *Read more*

3xD Simulator for Intelligent Vehicles, WMG

The EPSRC-funded 3xD Simulator for Intelligent Vehicles at WMG, University of Warwick, continues to garner interest from leading national and international political figures. The Prime Minister, Theresa May MP, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond MP, visited Warwick to discuss the University's and WMG's plans and activities for research and innovation, and their role in science, innovation and skills development. As part of the visit they were able to see first hand one of the world's most adaptable and advanced driving simulators. *Read more*

University of Southampton UAVs fly at Farnborough International Air Show 2016

The University of Southampton helped develop this twin-engine unmanned aerial vehicle known as the Spotter which became the first university UAV to fly to at Farnborough Air Show.
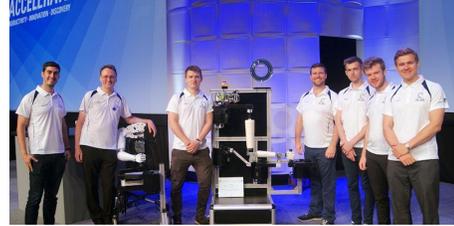
Watch the Spotter in action here.
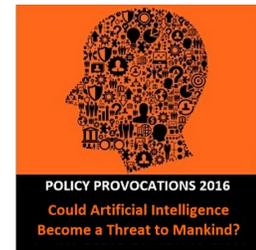
Leeds engineering team win global design competition

A multidisciplinary team of students from the Faculty of Engineering have won the National Instruments Global Student Design Contest with their post-stroke patient therapy device Project ALAN.

The Project ALAN team beat university projects from around the world to win the competition, including an underwater robot for arctic research by Aarhus University, and the control and test of an eco-car by DTU University, which set a world record for the highest ever fuel efficiency. *Read more*

Could Artificial Intelligence Become a Threat to Mankind?

There's been plenty of recent debate about whether AI poses a risk to people's jobs. Other technologies probably motivated similar debates. The growing capabilities of AI are different to the invention of the motor car. It is perhaps realistic that an AI system might pass the Turing test. Assuming it did, it would be "intelligent", but it (probably) wouldn't be conscious. This event will bring together people with diverse backgrounds and experience to discuss whether we even know what consciousness is, whether AI could ever achieve consciousness and whether it would be a good or bad thing if this were to happen. *Read more*
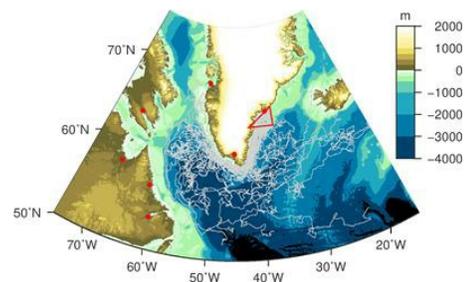

CDT-EI Summer School 2016: Social entrepreneurship challenge in partnership with RNIB

At this year's annual Summer School, CDT students took part in creating 'embedded intelligence' related aids for the visually impaired, in partnership with Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) College Loughborough. The teams attended presentations from Anna Janickyj of RNIB College Loughborough, demonstrating the challenges the visually impaired must overcome, from George Torrens, Senior Lecturer at Loughborough University's award winning design school, as well as from Brian Golland and Martin Grant from REMAP, a national charitable organisation custom-making equipment to help disabled people lead more independent lives. *Read more*

Project FreshWATERS (Fresh WAys of Targeting and Employing Robotic Systems)

The ocean is constantly churning. Vast bodies of water are channelled around the globe, transporting heat, carbon, salt and nutrients like a huge conveyor belt. These ocean currents are of interest to researchers, particularly because they influence (and are influenced by) climate change - but existing technology to monitor intricate and dynamic processes in key regions is prohibitively expensive to deploy. *Read more*
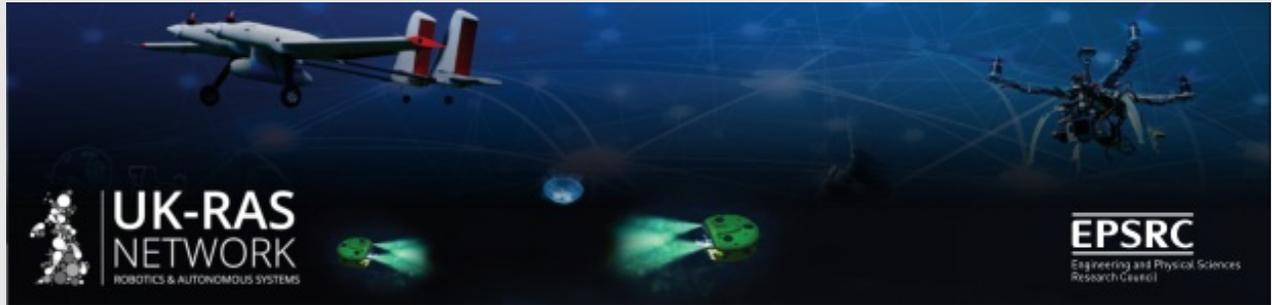

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