

KUKA Best Service Robotics Paper Award goes to the EU project PHRIENDS

Further award for European research project with KUKA participation – this year’s prize goes to a research group from the German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Kobe, May 2009 – “Humans and robots should be friends” – that is how the PHRIENDS consortium summarizes its goals. For the second time running, one of the consortium’s partners has now won the Best Service Robotics Paper Award, which was offered once again by KUKA and presented at the world’s largest robotics conference, the International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA). In May, researchers from the Institute for Robotics and Mechatronics at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) were honored for their fundamental research and development results at this year’s conference in Kobe, Japan.

The KUKA Best Service Robotics Paper Award was initiated to honor advances in the field of service robotics. The prize is awarded each year to the best service robotics paper presented at the world’s largest robotics conference ICRA. This year, the independent panel of experts decided in favor of the paper presented by a research group from the Institute for Robotics and Mechatronics at the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

The winner is a research group from the DLR

The paper “Collision Detection & Reaction: A contribution to safe physical human-robot interaction” by Sami Haddadin, Dr. Alin Albu-Schäffer, Mirco Frommberger, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Rossmann and Prof. Dr. Gerd Hirzinger, which was produced in collaboration with Aachen University, impressed the jury most. It deals with collision detection and resultant reaction strategies for increasing the level of safety in the case of close cooperation between humans and machines.

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Terutsugu Ando, President of KUKA Roboter Japan, was greatly honored to present the award, worth US\$1000. He praised the commitment of the German research group and of the PHRIENDS project as a whole, which has made a name for itself far beyond the borders of Europe – and now particularly in Japan – on account of this further award.

About the KUKA Robot Group

KUKA Roboter GmbH, Augsburg, is a KUKA Aktiengesellschaft company and ranks among the world's leading suppliers of industrial robots. Core competencies are the development, production and sale of industrial robots, controllers, software and linear units. The company is the market leader in Germany and Europe, and the number three in the world. The KUKA Robot Group employs about 2,200 people worldwide. Of these, 1,200 are employed in Germany, either at the KUKA Robot Group headquarters in Augsburg, or at various subsidiaries. In 2008, sales totaled 474 million euro. 25 subsidiaries provide a presence in the major markets of Europe, America and Asia.

