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News

Heidelberg, 19 June 2008

Springer Handbook of Robotics – a great success at the International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2008 in Pasadena

... and at Eurobot in Heidelberg



The *Springer Handbook of Robotics* was presented to the public for the first time at this year's International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), which was held in Pasadena, California on 19–23 May, 2008. Just over a third of the 168 authors who contributed to this mammoth work attended the conference in California (see photo below). From Springer, Heather King (Editorial Assistant Engineering) and

Werner Skolaut (Springer Handbooks) went to Pasadena to ensure that both the book and the authors were given the attention they deserved.

In addition to the new handbook, Springer also presented another 100 books and 13 journals on the topic of robotics at its stand, but the *Springer Handbook of Robotics* was by far the most popular. With a large banner and T-shirts used to publicize it, the book attracted a great deal of interest, and an unusually large number of copies (53) were sold at the conference itself.

The robotics community had been waiting for this book for some time, because it

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is the first well-researched reference work of its kind that compiles decades of international research in robotics and presents the state of the art in the field. The two editors, the well-known robotics experts Bruno Siciliano (from the University of Naples) and Oussama Khatib (from Stanford University), also attended the conference. At the book release reception, the editors thanked all the authors involved for the team's commitment and untiring work over a period of more than five years. More than ten thousand e-mails were exchanged until the work was published in book form covering more than 1,600 pages.

Oussama Khatib, one of the two editors, produced an entertaining [video](#) summarizing the laborious process of creating the book. The video shows how, with the necessary positive energy, a large project inevitably leads to success. "Keep the gradient!", the motto that kept the editors, authors and Springer staff working as a tightly knit team, will no doubt encourage authors to remain loyal to Springer in the future too.

On May 22, Springer organized a reception for all the handbook authors attending the ICRA conference. Werner Skolaut, who was involved in every detail of the final stage of the production process with the Leipzig-based company le-tex, in particular, said that the book presentation in Pasadena was rather like a birth for him. The evening was a great success, and the authors all wore T-shirts especially designed by Oussama Khatib for the group photo to remember the occasion (see group photo below).

A large share of the laurels for the *Springer Handbook of Robotics* are due to Thomas Ditzinger (Senior Editor Engineering) and Werner Skolaut (Senior Manager Springer Handbooks), who invested a great deal of effort and commitment in the long process of making the book. Hubertus Riedesel launched the Springer Handbook product line in 2001 and began the current bestseller *Springer Handbook of Nanotechnology* in 2004. The *Springer Handbook of Robotics* is the 11th handbook to be published in the series, which is also available as e-reference editions. Thomas Ditzinger initiated work on the robotics handbook and contacted the two editors Bruno Siciliano and Oussama Khatib, who had already collaborated with Mr. Ditzinger very successfully as editors of the book series *Springer Tracts in Advanced Robotics* (STAR).

The great interest in Springer publications in the field of robotics and automation shown by visitors to the ICRA 2008 suggests that Springer will be able to maintain its position as market leader in this segment also in the future.

Pasadena was not the only place to be for robotics enthusiasts this May: Eurobot 2008 was held at the SRH College of technology in Heidelberg on 22–24 May under the slogan "Mission to Mars". On May 24, Oussama Khatib came straight from the ICRA in Pasadena to give a talk on "Human-Centered Robotics" at the end of Eurobot in Heidelberg. Springer took this opportunity to present the *Springer Handbook of Robotics* (see photo below) here as well. In addition to a trophy, the three best teams at Eurobot also received a signed copy of the Springer Handbook of Robotics, which they proudly held up to the camera at the subsequent photo session. In the end, the French team rcva beat 50 other teams from 26 countries, winning the world title this year for the third time in a row.



Group Photo



Bruno Siciliano, Oussama Khatib



Heather King, Oussama Khatib,

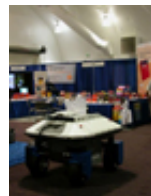


Werner Skolaut

Werner Skolaut, Bruno Siciliano



Thomas Ditzinger



Robotics



Oussama Khatib at Eurobot in Heidelberg

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