



RoDyMan, the pizza-maker robot

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Every country has its cultural specificities and robotics is the same. Indeed, each research lab develops particular applications according to what it finds. The Japanese company Yaskawa, for example, made a demonstration of precision for its 100th anniversary, in which their robotic arm learnt to wield the katana. It is now Prisma Lab's turn, the Italian lab, to present their robot.

Prima Lab of Naples University, is one of the main labs in Europe for research in robotics. This is where Bruno Siciliano, a professor of engineering, launched the project RoDyMan. RoDyMan is a humanoid robot developed for a study on robotic prehension. The name of the project, RoDyMan, is a short for Robotic Dynamic Manipulation. The goal of the study is to solve the major problems related to objects handling, such as locating an item while it is moving, movement, item handling and the general control of the robot.

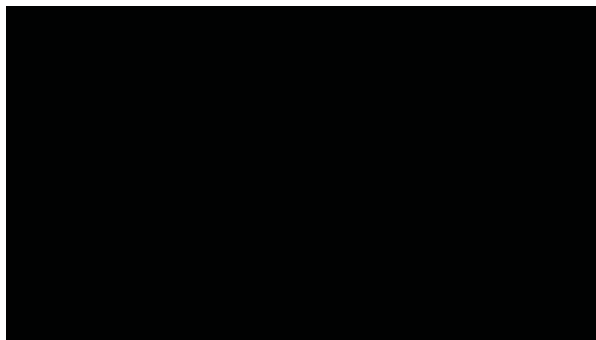


RoDyMan is a mobile platform with a chest, two lightweight Kuka arms and a head equipped with sensors. The robot will be able to do complex handling movements needing a human-robot cooperation system. At the tip of its arms, the robot has hands with several independent fingers. The mobile platform is fitted with wheels to make the robot move in any direction. The head has a stereo camera system. And the robot will have proximity and range sensors.



According to Siciliano, human-robot interaction is at the core of the project. This is the reason why “safety is a key feature of the new system. This autonomous robot should be able to control the flow of events in the task, react to and learn from its environment. It will be able to deal quickly with unexpected situations, such as the presence of humans or obstacles”.

The project has been granted 2.5 million euros by the European Research Council for a study supposed to last in 2017.



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