

The EuRoC project automatica • 19–22 June 2018 • Munich

EuRoC stands for European Robotics Challenges and is a research project funded under the Seventh Framework of the European Commission, started in January 2014 and ending in June 2018.

What is EuRoC? EuRoC is built around the concept of **three industry-relevant challenges**:

- [Reconfigurable interactive manufacturing cell](#)
- [Shopfloor logistic and manipulation](#)
- [Plant servicing and inspection](#)

These challenges were launched in April 2014 through **open calls for challengers, technology developers, system integrators, and end-users**.

Each challenge was articulated into **three stages** of increasing complexity.

Stage 1 was the “**Qualifying**” round. Any team could apply to a simulation contest. The best 45 teams (15 for each challenge) formed by research experts from academia, solution-oriented or innovating companies from industry, qualified to advance. The crucial moment of the overall research project was the **Brokerage Event** organized in London in December 2014: on one side there were the prospective challengers and on the other there were all the stakeholders in the “value chain”: technology providers, system integrators, and, above all, end-users.

Thanks to this unique match-making opportunity, the extended teams were formed and had the opportunity to work together on a research proposal, aspiring to become the official challenger teams. The best 15 proposals (5 for each challenge) were chosen by an independent Panel of Experts to advance to **Stage 2 “Realistic labs”**, from July 2015 to April 2017, where the teams benchmarked their solutions on three world-class robotic platforms hosted by [IPA Fraunhofer](#), [DLR](#) and [ETH Zurich](#), and emulated the use cases in the labs.

Then, a Panel of Experts selected the best **6 teams** (2 for each challenge) to advance to **Stage 3 “Field tests”**, from July 2017 to March 2018, for implementing the use cases. A Board of Judges with different expertise ranked the results obtained by the teams in Stage 3, and the **EuRoC Winner** was selected during the **Final Challenge Workshop** in Naples in April 2018: Team [FLA²IR from Challenge 1](#), composed of FZI Research Center for Information Technology as Research, MRK-Systeme GmbH as System Integrator, and Opel Automobile GmbH as End-User.

The EuRoC Winner is only symbolic as it did not get a monetary prize. The 15 teams in Stage 2 got up to 375 K€ financial support, while the 6 teams in Stage 3 got up to 585 K€ financial support, and thus they were all winners.

“The European manufacturing programme needs competitive solutions to keep the global leadership in products and services” is the motto of the EuRoC project and it is the essence of what the project has achieved: creating a virtuous cycle in the robotics ecosystem by connecting the protagonists of the value chain. The variety of use cases funded shows the potential of European

Robotics to solve a number of industrially relevant problems, by providing the most advanced solutions.

At the bottom line, after four years and half of work, we can state that EuRoC has been successful in achieving relevant results in terms of technology transfer through the benchmarking, challenge and competition concepts. We got the best out of the challenges to really boost and enhance competitiveness and produce remarkable achievements on a pervasive scale, involving all the stakeholders in the value chain of European Robotics.

The six finalist challenger teams of the EuRoC project have been invited to automatica fair in Munich to showcase their results. All the demos will be presented in hall **B4, booth 417**, an area of 200 square metres.

On June 20 at 4.00 p.m., there will be the Award Ceremony of the EuRoC Winner on the stage of the Start-Up Arena (hall B4), with the presence of Juha Heikkila, Head of the Robotics Unit in DG-Connect, Bernd Liepert, Chief Innovation Officer of KUKA and President of the European Robotics Association, and Bruno Siciliano, EuRoC Project Coordinator. On that occasion, a professional video will be shown to present the results of the project.

Facts & figures

Project coordinator: prof. [Bruno Siciliano](#)

Total funding: 16.5 M€ of which 7 M€ grant money

Duration: 54 months

103 submissions received

26 Teams granted up to 5 K€ each in the first stage

9 Teams granted up to 375 K€ each in the second stage

6 Teams granted up to 585 K€ each in the second and third stages

1 EuRoC Winner

[EuRoC core Consortium](#): 5 academic/research institution, 3 companies, 1 SME

EuRoC Consortium at-large: 25 academic/research institutions, 12 companies, 9 SMEs

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