Industry-Academia collaboration in the ECHORD project: a bridge for European robotic innovation

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Abstract

In order to boost the practical use of robot technology not only in industrial settings, more sophisticated robotic solutions have to be elaborated, particularly in terms of autonomy, flexibility, interactivity and cooperating with human, ease of use, and safety. In order to be able to develop applications on the short-term and to maintain efficient improvement of European robotics in the long term, a better cooperation and technological know-how transfer between robot manufacturers and research institutions is essential.

ECHORD (European Clearing House for Open Robotics Development, FP7-ICT-231143, http://www.echord.info) is an innovative framework aiming at intensifying this collaboration by carrying more than 50 small sub-projects (socalled experiments with specific research foci and scenarios) with consortia composed of academia and industry. The whole project is coordinated by the Technische Universitt Mnchen (Germany), University of Naples (Italy), and University of Coimbra (Portugal).

This workshop is composed of two parts:

1. A presentation session where an overview of the ECHORD experiments will be given by the coordinating partners of ECHORD, then (intermediate) results of the experiments targeted to an international audience will be presented, followed by discussions.
2. An open discussion session about innovative solutions in and outside ECHORD, future impacts, new applications, limitations and possible improvements, as well as safety concepts.