

## Press Release

November 04, 2011

European Robotics Week

### **“Robotics offers enormous potentials for job beginners and the whole society“**

**In the framework of the "European Robotics Week", 120 European companies, universities, and research institutes will carry out about 330 events and campaigns around the topic robotics from November 28 to December 4, 2011. SCHUNK, the competence leader for clamping technology and gripping systems from Lauffen, Germany is one of the participants: In a three-day “Robot Competition“, two teams of the Secondary Modern School Güglingen will compete against each other in the training center of the innovative family-owned company.**

According to Henrik A. Schunk, Managing Partner of the high-tech company in Lauffen, and Chairman of the Management Board of the European Robotic Association EUnited Robotics, robots will become an integral part of our lives in some years. “Similar to the computer, where people had the impression some years ago, that it has no right to exist, robots will establish in everyday life as well,“ says Henrik Schunk. “Therefore robotics offer enormous potentials to job beginners and the society as a whole.“

Among experts all around the globe, the family-owned company in Lauffen, is considered to be one of the most competent contact person in the field of service robotics. For the fifth time, SCHUNK will organize the annual Expert Days on Service Robotics, the world’s leading symposium on applied service robotics next year. In contrast to industrial robotics, where the robots are performing their tasks shielded from humans, service robotics is a direct human-robot interaction. Numerous companies and institutes world-wide have recognized the potentials of robotics as a helper of humans, and are working intensively on practical solutions. The spectrum comprises minesweepers over milking robots, automatic pool cleaning to the entertainment machine, and the nursing. While the leisure industry plays an important role in Asia, in the United States the armaments industry, agriculture, and the con-

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sumer industry have a strong interest in the multi-purpose helpers. In Europe however, it is searched in the fields lifestyle, logistics and laboratory automation. Experts are convinced, that robotics will become a key element, when it comes to manage societal challenges ahead, the ageing society for example, creating and sustaining equal-opportunity high-quality employment, the defence of external and internal security threads, and the increasing competition for production locations.

With the participation at the „European Robotics Week“, SCHUNK especially wants to call the attention of pupils and job beginners for the gigantic future market. The pupil teams' challenge is the programming of a toy robot. This illustrates how great the possibilities of "real" robots are. After just two days of preparation, the pupils will be capable to lift, transport, and balance table tennis balls, or to move chess pieces with the help of small robots, and everything without any previous knowledge. The three-day "Robot Competition" at SCHUNK is organized by the electronics apprentices. The actual competition, where an audience is invited, will take place on Friday, December 2, 2011 between 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the SCHUNK training center, im Brühl 72, Lauffen. At 3 p.m., the management is going to honor the winning team.

Number of characters incl. space characters: 3.612



The Robot Competition at SCHUNK is a part of the European Robotics Week from November 28 to December 4, 2011.

One week with 330 events on robotics all over Europe!

For further information please visit [www.robotics-week.eu](http://www.robotics-week.eu)



**Captions:**

<p>DustCart 1-2</p>	<p>In the Italian small city Peccioli, service robots such as the DustCart of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, are tested in public places.</p> <p>Photos: Silvio Franco, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna</p>	
<p>PBA, ERB and WSG</p>	<p>The SCHUNK PBA powerball arm is a compact light-weight arm, which benefits from the advantages of a modular system. With three ERB joint modules up to six degrees of freedom can be achieved.</p> <p>Photo: SCHUNK</p>	

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