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The world's largest civilian research and innovation programme in civilian robotics has been recently launched by the **European Commission** and **euRobotics**, the non-profit international association including 180 companies and research organizations. The programme – called **SPARC** – is expected to create over 240,000 jobs in Europe and increase Europe's share of the global market to 42%, with a boost of €4 billion per year.

SPARC will cover several areas, including manufacturing, agriculture, health, transport, civilian security and households and will allow Europe to **maintain competitiveness** of robotics industry and overcome at best today's most pressing **societal challenges** – from demographic change to mobility to sustainable production. The European Commission will invest 700 million euro in this project and euRobotics 2.1 billion.

SPARC is open to all European companies and research institutions. The first call for proposals related to SPARC is run under the pillar "**Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies**" of the new EU research and innovation framework programme [Horizon 2020](#). The next funding call will be published in October 2014 with an April 2015 deadline.

Source Commissione Europea

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