
EUROBOT

8TH EDITION



20, 21 & 22 MAY 2005

YVERDON-LES-BAINS

SWITZERLAND

EUROBOT IN A FEW WORDS

EUROBOT is a high level robotics competition that brings into play totally autonomous robots on the occasion of a predetermined sports challenge. The teams in the running have to examine the possibilities of several scientific disciplines – mechanics, electronics, computer science, automatism – in order to put together the best possible strategy for the competition.

EUROBOT is aimed at students from Engineering Schools and Universities, as well as enthusiasts from scientific clubs. The rules of the competition change each year in order to give new teams a chance, as well as to motivate those who have already taken part.

EUROBOT is a recreational meeting as well as a very serious project. It is a first-rate training field for our future engineers as well as a forum, presenting the latest developments in this sector to the general public. It also gives the students a very useful opportunity to meet experts, to exchange ideas and sometimes to examine job opportunities.

EUROBOT was founded by the VM Group company; the association « Planète Sciences” and by the town of La Ferté-Bernard. The EUROBOT association that groups together organisers of the various different European national cups henceforth carries out the organisation.

EUROBOT 2005 – 8TH EDITION

EUROBOT 2005 consisted also of:

- From September 2004 to May 2005, more than **234 teams** involved in a project for **EUROBOT**, meaning more than 3500 participants.
- 10 countries organising national qualifications open to the general public; indeed, no more than 3 teams per countries can be selected for the finale meeting of **EUROBOT**.
- On the final event of **EUROBOT**, **22 countries** represented by 50 teams and about 400 participants.
- More than 45 000 spectators attended the different previous national events, and 300 are about to come during the final event of **EUROBOT** in Switzerland.
- Millions of viewers who could follow this adventure thanks to broadcasts and reports on nearly 20 TV channels across Europe.
- The “Science and City” festival that host this 8th edition of EUROBOT AND ORGANISE MANY EVENTS LIKE:
 - E-Robot, the contest reserved to juniors, that gather 18 Swiss teams representing 54 children from 8 to 14 years old. These futures engineers must build a robot with Lego Windstorms pieces, programmable.
 - The « 1st International Conference on Dextrous Autonomous Robots and Humanoids » will be held in order to draw the state of the arts about science and technology knowledge, especially the latest discoveries in the robotics field
 - Roboka: a programming contest (simulation) for humanoids robots using a free version of the Webots free software.
 - Several spectacle, exhibitions, concerts and conferences that will rhythm the life of the Yverdon-les-Bains from the 19 to the 29 May 05.

For further information about the numerous other events organised around the 8th edition of **EUROBOT**, please go to the chapter focused on ‘EUROBOT & the Festival Science et Cité’ and visit the following website:

- www.robots05.ch
- www.darh2005.org

FROM AMERICAN ORIGINS TO INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

The first robotics competition was organised nearly forty years ago in one of the most prestigious American universities, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) by Woodie Flowers. His objective: that the young people put their theoretical knowledge into practice in a recreational framework, in order to reinforce the students' interest in science and techniques.

The concept was later exported to several countries, notably to Europe and Japan . In Europe, the French Robotics Cup was established in 1994 on the initiative taken by the VM Group and « Planète Sciences » and this led to **EUROBOT** in France in 1998. Its success was immediate with a speedy increase in youth participation from 14 to 200 teams.

There are henceforth more than **22 nationalities** represented; some of whom are invited from the American and African continents.

At present, **10 national cups** are organised: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Serbia-Montenegro, Spain, Switzerland and united Kingdom. All of these events take place a short time before the international **EUROBOT** final, following the same rules and regulations.

The other countries sending teams are: Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Romania, Russia, The Slovak Republic, and also Morocco, Tunisia, Canada

THE ACTORS: FUTURE ENGINEERS AND RESEARCHERS

These events are, essentially, aimed at students from Engineering schools, universities or University Institutes of Technology, within the framework of a study plan or leisure activities. These young researchers and engineers of tomorrow come in particular from higher institutions such as : the Polytechnic School of Paris, the Nomal Higher School of Ulm, the Polytechnic School of Lausanne, the University of Alcala De Henarès or also the University of Aachen.

EUROBOT enables the participants to commit themselves to a real long-term scientific project. These creations call upon their knowledge in computer science, automatism, electronics, mechanics, etc..... Knowledge which has been acquired throughout their training. Organised in the same logic as project development, this work also enables the participants to deal with matters such as team management, work organization and communication.

This original and recreational concept has won rapid success among the young people as it allows them to put their knowledge into practise and to develop their know-how. It is also an unforgettable human experience, rich in encounters and cultural exchanges. Thus, this project promotes the bringing together of enthusiasts and experts, notably thanks to the Web which is used intensely by the teams all throughout the year.



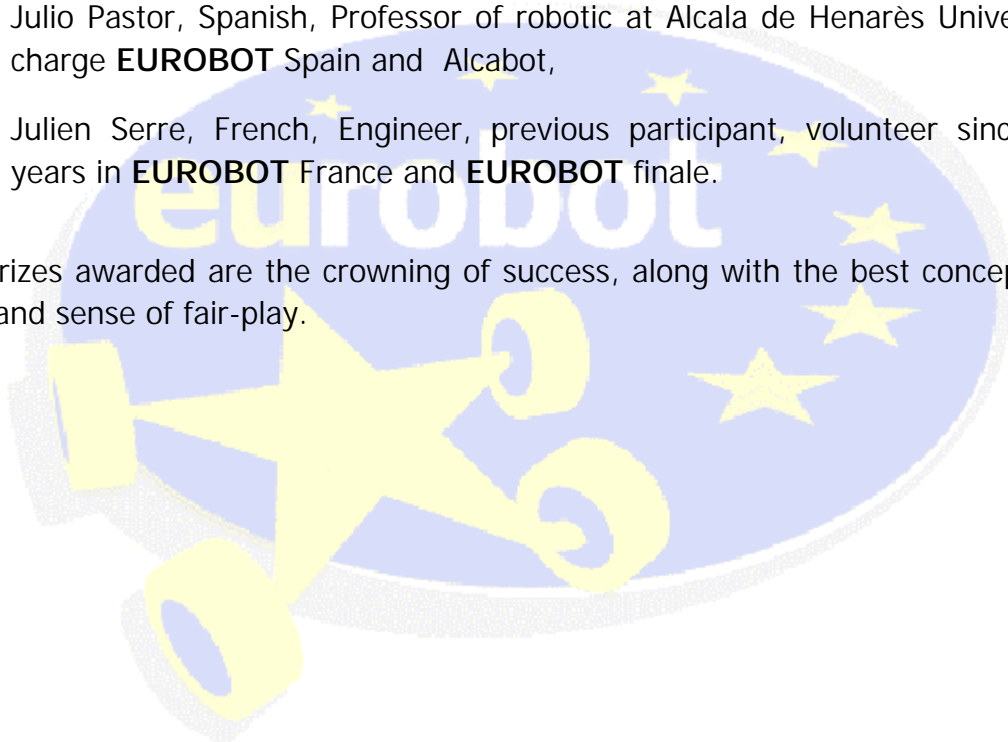
EUROBOT AND THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD

This event is recognized and supported by the professional business world. For companies and centres of research, being available for the participants all throughout the year, as well as on the site during the events, brings them a unique communication opportunity.

The organisers of Eurobot also give huge importance to identifying the prize-winning teams. Therefore, the 2004 jury was made up of specialists in robotics and in the circulation of the scientific and technical culture:

- Rolf Biesenbach, Germany, Professor of robotics at Bochum University, specialist in Mecatronic, DARH committee member,
- David Obdrzalek, Czech Republic, Computer specialist, previous participant, in charge of **EUROBOT** Czech,
- Julio Pastor, Spanish, Professor of robotic at Alcala de Henarès University, in charge **EUROBOT** Spain and Alcabot,
- Julien Serre, French, Engineer, previous participant, volunteer since many years in **EUROBOT** France and **EUROBOT** finale.

The prizes awarded are the crowning of success, along with the best concept, team spirit and sense of fair-play.



EUROBOT AND SCIENCE & SOCIETY FESTIVAL

The "Science et Cité" foundation, together with Dana European Alliance, join their efforts to present, from the 19th to the 29th May 2005, the Festival Science and City. **EUROBOT** is a part of these 350 events organised in 19 cities in Switzerland.

The theme is serious, although many events choose to play it using a funny approach. Indeed the festival is also a party and an opportunity for meetings. It addresses all ages and social categories. In 19 cities, the public will be able to attend interdisciplinary events and see the relations between science and art. The agenda include a large variety of approaches and shapes.

Such an event therefore contributes to supporting the European Commission's objectives:

- Fight against the youth's disaffection for scientific studies, by showing science in a different light, in a more recreational and practical way.
- Promote exchanges between experts and students, through conferences, stands, professional demonstrations
- Provoke the general public's interest in scientific activities, by presenting current research and development work and their implementation
- Promote « science and society » debates between the general public and scientists.

EUROBOT, AN ORGANISATION BASED ON COMPLEMENTARITY

The EUROBOT association:

This association was set up in May 2004, on an initiative taken by its founders : VM Group, « Planète Sciences » and the French town of La Ferté-Bernard. It brings together all the national cup organisers within an official international organisation committee.

This organisation mainly regroups universities, museums, youth scientific cultural associations, television production companies and towns. Its current president is Nicolas Goldzalh, CEO of VM Group.

Planète sciences, founder member:

For more than 40 years, the « Planète Sciences » association and its regional delegations have offered the youth scientific activities and technical experiments in the framework of leisure and school time. Each year 150,000 young people are involved, with the competing of 600 scientific clubs and the participation of 1000 coordinators and trainers specialised in workshop supervision, educational action projects, exhibitions, general public events. Numerous partners get active in France with the « Planète Sciences » network and support its actions: Ministries; Centres of Research, Industrialists, Museums, Regional groups...

www.planete-sciences.org

VM GROUP, founder member:

An audiovisual production company set up in 1991. Within a few years it proved itself to be the French leader in the production of scientific TV programmes, particularly e=m6, “Les Grandes Enigmes de la Science” and “ Savoir plus santé”.

Apart from its programmes, VM diversified, by creating in 1998, a department dedicated to the production of TV reports and documentaries. The activity of VM consists also of the multimedia production of CD-Roms and DVDs, as well as the release of an Internet gateway to the programme e=m6.

www.vmgroupe.fr

LA FERTE-BERNARD, founder member:

Since its beginnings, the town of La Ferté-Bernard (France) has hosted the event in the framework of the ARTEC festival. This town, with a population of 10,000 people, hosts, therefore, for one week, numerous artistic and scientific events, aimed at the general public and notably at the youth.

www.la-ferte-bernard.com

The town of YVERDON-LES-BAINS and the Swiss National Organising Committee:

Yverdon-les-Bains, that welcome for the first time the event, developed around **EUROBOT 2005** a complete program of conferences and cultural events, like exhibitions, concerts, spectacles...

www.yevrdonlesbains-tourisme.ch

National Organising Committee:

EUROBOT 2005 wouldn't have been possible without the relay of motivated people in the different countries. They are organised in National Organising Committees, whom volunteers and organisers do not count their efforts in order to transform their national cup, alike the European finale, an event always more complete and popular.

The list of national Organising Committee, members and relay of EUROBOT association. Up to date:

- Algeria, Blida University
- Germany, Chemnitz University
- Austria, Austrobot association
- Belgium, the PASS – museum of Science.
- Spain, Alcala de Henarès University
- France, consortium VM GROUP / Planète Sciences / Ville de la Ferté-Bernard (the French qualification is organised since 94, within the Sciences and Arts festival "ARTEC")
- Italy, Catania University
- Czech Republic, Robonika association (Charles's university of Prague)
- Serbia-Montenegro, Novi-Sad University
- Switzerland, consortium: Robot CH / Yverdon-les-Bains

Many new countries wish to join, in 2006, this organisation. They will become relay and organise national qualification for **EUROBOT**.

EUROBOT, UNE ORGANISATION SOUTENUE PAR DES PARTENAIRES ENGAGÉS

*DASSAULT SYSTEMES, **EUROBOT** official partner 2005:*

DASSAULT SYSTEMES, official partner for **EUROBOT** 2005, is leader in simulation software for aeronautics, aerospace and robotics. Beyond its financial support DASSAULT SYSTEMES offers to teams its last version of the famous software, *CATIA*.

Its engineers specifically developed *CATIA Robotics Edition*, and 5 licences are given free to teams, allowing them to realise the robot of their dreams.

www.3ds.com/fr/

The European commission, General Research Directorate

The DG research support once again the organisation of this event, as **EUROBOT** can help the European Commission in its will to make science more attractive to youth.



AND FOR TOMORROW?

Eurobot 2006 will take place from the 1st to 4th June 2006 at La Perla Ionica Congress and Hotel resort, 15 km from Catania city (Sicilia/Italy) and within the University of Catania. It will be organised by the university « degli Studi di Catania » and the communication agency PIANETA COMMUNICATION.

More than 260 teams are expected to take part, through the different national events and the European final. They will come from an ever-increasing number of countries. Indeed, countries such as Bulgaria, Greece and Luxembourg have expressed their intention take part for the first time in 2005.

Up to date, we are sure of the following ones: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Romania, Russia, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Switzerland; but also Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Canada, Kuwait and Iran.

In 13 countries, national qualification are to be organised, in order to respect the rule of 3 teams per country at maximum, for the finale of EUROBOT.

www.eurobot.org

EUROBOT JUNIOR

We hope to launch the **EUROBOT Junior** contest in 2006. This competition exist since 1994 in France, under the name of "Trophées de robotique", and it concerns nowadays more than 300 young people, within 200 teams.

It concerns young people aged from 8 to 18 years old, during their leisure time or at school. They must build a remote controlled robot in teams, according to rules that are launch in September.

As Belgium and Luxembourg wish to become organisers of a national finale in their respective country, the idea of **EUROBOT Junior** appeared in 2004. The partners (VM Group, Planete Sciences, PASS in Belgium, and "Musée National d'Histoires Naturelles" in Luxembourg) are actually looking for funding allowing them to launch this event.

If they succeed, it will take place at spring 2006 in Belgium. Already, Germany, Spain and Greece declared themselves as candidates to send teams.

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