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Will massive robotics initiative create or kill jobs in Europe?

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Will a €2.8 billion investment in the robotics industry in Europe create 240,000 new jobs as hoped, or will it come at the expense of existing workers?

That is the dilemma faced by members of the European Commission, which is partnering with 180 European companies and research organizations to bolster the continent's global robotics market. [According to an article](#) at *CIO UK*, the Commission expects that market to be worth approximately €60 billion by the year 2020.

Together, the Commission and the 180 organizations have launched a new initiative called SPARC, which "will develop the application of robotics in agriculture, health, transport, civil security, manufacturing and household use, and aims to increase Europe's share of the global robotics market to 42 percent, a boost of €4 billion per year," the article explains.

The industry players collectively will invest €2.1 billion in the effort, and the Commission will pony up the additional €700 million.

But the Commission has acknowledged it needs a strong public relations campaign around the idea of pouring lots of money into robotics with a promise of job creation.

"People are worried about the effect the increasing use of robots could have on their jobs," the article notes. "A survey conducted by the Commission in 2012 into public attitudes towards robots, for instance, showed that 70 percent of respondents agree that 'robots could steal people's jobs.'"

The article also said that the issue of jobs lost or replaced by robots seemed to be of minor interest to the Commission or the industry players, which have gathered under the umbrella organization of euRobotics.

"The additional revenue targeted would--if spent entirely on pay, with no allowance for payroll taxes, cost of materials, investment or other overheads--result in jobs with average salaries below the minimum wage in France, for example," the article concluded.

For more:

- check out the *CIO UK* [article](#)

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