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EC Announces \$3.8B Partnership in Robotics: SPARC

Claimed as the world's largest civilian research and innovation program in robotics

By Tom Green



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June 05, 2014

Although the Koreans and Japanese would probably take exception to the EC's use of the word "largest," and maybe roll their eyes over a \$3.8B investment in robotics as being on the light side, there's no quibbling over the fact that the European Commission's partnership with euRobotics AISBL, called SPARC, is nothing short of spectacular.

If there is anything that the EU needs badly these days, it's something spectacular. And with SPARC, the EU is looking to jump start a little magic in that direction.

Europe, in finally getting the SPARC program up and running now at the beginning of Horizon 2020, is showing leadership, organization and money—lots of money. All sorely needed if the

EU, according to Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the EC's Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, is ever to break free from what she calls an "innovation emergency."

Economist Paul Krugman in *The Age of Diminishing Expectations* preaches: "Productivity isn't everything, but in the long run it is almost everything," and that innovation is the key to productivity. With SPARC, robots will be looked upon to provide that "spark" of productivity, as well as a decided boost to employment.

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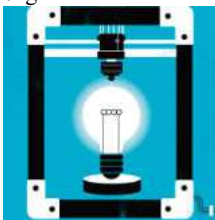
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"Business" is our middle name; so here at Robotics Business Review, we believe that business, just as it has so aptly demonstrated since 1962, will ultimately be the force that drives all emerging robotics' technology forward. Robotics business and the business of robotics are our prime focus. [Learn more.](#)

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