



You are here: > manufacture > Article



Back ▶

Investment in the Robots of the Future

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The European Commission and euRobotics AISBL launched the world's largest civilian research and innovation programme in robotics on 3 June 2014 at the opening of AUTOMATICA in Munich. The initiative – called SPARC – aims to maintain and extend Europe's leading position in this strategic area, whose overall market volume could reach, according to the Commission, more than €60 billion by 2020. Vice-President of the European Commission Neelie Kroes said in the opening ceremony, *"The robotics revolution is happening now. We should not follow it, but lead it. Robots can improve our economy, our lives, our jobs. Robots are not cutting humans out of the equation: they are partners for a better future."*



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She also stated that SPARC is expected to create over 240,000 jobs in Europe. The European Commission will invest €700 million in SPARC under its new research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. European industry's overall investment will amount to €2.1 billion. This public-private partnership (PPP) aims to increase Europe's competitiveness in the production and use of robotics in industry, agriculture, health, transport, civil security and households.

Robotics contributes to Europe's strong position in global manufacturing. But the potential of robotics goes far beyond the factory: robots help nurses in hospitals, inspect dangerous power plants, and do tedious jobs on farms. Autonomous cars are another example where robotics technology is at work. The global market for robotics amounts to €22 billion and is expected to grow to more than €60 billion by 2020. Europe is already a leader, with an overall market share of 35%, but efforts are needed to follow the pace of this rapidly evolving sector and to make the most of it. The new Partnership for Robotics in Europe, SPARC, aims to increase Europe's market share to 42% by 2020.

With SPARC, the European Commission is joining forces with European industry and research to strengthen and further develop European robotics. euRobotics AISBL, a Brussels-based association founded in 2012 with the support of VDMA, represents the private side in the PPP and has a membership of more than [180 European companies, universities and research institutions](#), ranging from traditional industrial robotics manufacturers to producers of agricultural machinery and innovative hospitals. The members of euRobotics AISBL are developing a "roadmap for robotics in Europe" to achieve the objectives of SPARC. This roadmap is being turned into concrete work programmes and calls for proposals.

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