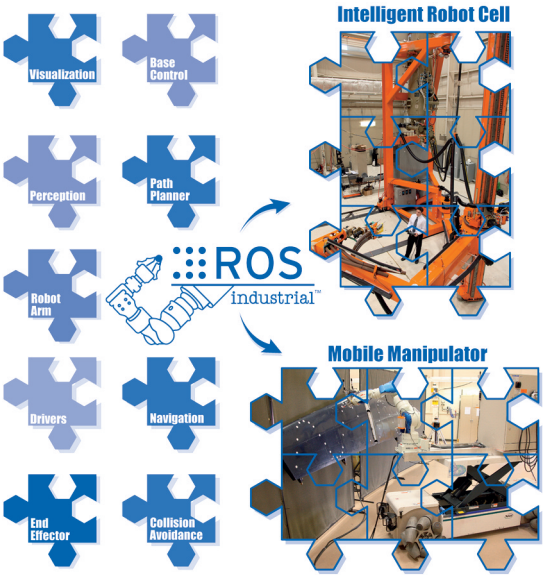
PRESS RELEASE

Fraunhofer IPA to initiate a European ROS Industrial Consortium

Southwest Research Institute® (SwRI®) recently launched the ROS-Industrial Consortium to conduct foundational, precompetitive research and code development and apply advanced ROS software to industrial applications



Fraunhofer IPA takes up the ROS Industrial Initiative and plans to create a European ROS-Industrial Consortium, in collaboration with the North American Consortium led by SwRI.

The two Consortia will address the differing needs of the European and North American markets, while both will still collaborate at a high level. The two organizations will work together on common development tasks, but may have different methods of operation, budgets, and structure.

ROS is an open-source project providing a common framework of software libraries and tools for a wide range of robotic applications. In recent years, adoption has grown exponentially, and ROS is evolving as the predominant software platform in robotics research, in the United States as well as Europe. Leading research institutions are applying ROS to intelligent software components, e.g. for 2D-vision and 3D-point cloud sensor processing, as well as robot motion planning. Transferring these capabilities to industrial platforms could revolutionize robotic manufacturing applications.

"Following other successful open-source projects as models, SwRI is initiating a precompetitive commercial collaborative research consortium, exclusively focused on the needs of industrial robot users," said Paul Evans, director of SwRI's Manufacturing Systems Department.

"Prerequisites for European industry to apply ROS, however, are quality assurance, long-term code stability, interoperability with existing components and tool chains and

Press and Public Relations
Jörg-Dieter Walz | Phone +49 711 970-1667 | presse@ipa.fraunhofer.de
Axel Storz | Phone +49 711 970-3660 | axel.storz@ipa.fraunhofer.de
Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA | Nobelstrasse 12 | 70569 Stuttgart | www.ipa.fraunhofer.de

a distinct and reliable contact point for support. This is where ROS Industrial comes in…" stated Prof. Verl, head of Fraunhofer IPA.

See http://www.rosindustrial.org

About Southwest Research Institute

Southwest Research Institute® (SwRI®), headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, is one of the oldest and largest independent, nonprofit, applied research and development organizations in the United States.

SwRI's 11 technical divisions offer a wide range of technical expertise and services in such areas as chemistry, space science, nondestructive evaluation, automation, engine design, mechanical engineering, electronics and more.

See http://swri.org/
Contact: clay.flanning@swri.org

About Fraunhofer IPA

Finding solutions to organizational and technological challenges, particularly within the production environment of industrial enterprises. That, in a nutshell, is the key focus of the research an is an open-source project providing a common framework of software libraries and tools for a wide range of robotic applications. In recent years, adoption has grown exponentially, and ROS is evolving as the predominant software platform in robotics research, in the United States as well as Europe. Leading research institutions are applying ROS to intelligent software components, e.g. for 2D-vision and 3D-point cloud sensor processing, as well as robot motion planning. Transferring these capabilities to industrial platforms could revolutionize robotic manufacturing applications.

See http://www.ipa.fraunhofer.de

Contact
Florian Weißhardt | Phone +49 711 970-1046 | florian.weisshardt@ipa.fraunhofer.de | Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA | www.ipa.fraunhofer.de
Ulrich Reiser | Phone +49 711 970-1330 | ulrich.reiser@ipa.fraunhofer.de | Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA | www.ipa.fraunhofer.de

The **Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA** was founded in 1959 and incorporated in the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in 1971. It is one of the largest single institutes within this research organization and employs around 280 scientists. It has an annual budget of approximately 44 million euros, of which 19.4 million euros derive from industrial projects.
The Fraunhofer IPA is made up of 14 individual departments engaged in the fields of Production Organization, Surface Engineering, Automation, and Process Technology. Our research and development work focuses on organizational and technological issues in the manufacturing environment of advanced industries, including Automotive, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Microsystems Engineering, Energy, and Medical and Biological Engineering. The R&D projects aim to enhance production processes and make products more cost-effective and environmentally friendly by identifying and exploiting the potential for automation and streamlining at our customers' companies. This helps to maintain jobs and to strengthen international competitiveness.