

# IERA Award

## History

- Joint IEEE-IFR Award on Invention and Entrepreneurship in Robotics and Automation
- MoU between IEEE RAS and IFR (since 2006)
- Last editions: ICRA Barcelona (2005), IROS Beijing (2006), ICRA Rome (2007).
- The winner was always selected from a list of nominees.
- Each nominee had to present its application in front of the award committee and the public.
- The final award selection has so far been organized
  - jointly by IEEE and IFR members (Sukhan Lee, Erwin Prassler, Hadi Moradi, Stefan Müller, Rainer Bischoff, ...)
  - in conjunction with major robotics events
    - embedded in the IERA forum with general chairs: IEEE Vice-President Industrial Activities and IFR President
    - all other forum positions were agreed upon jointly by the IEEE IAB and IFR

## Recent topics which require discussion between IEEE RAS and IFR

- winner: **persons** vs. companies
- **single winner** vs. runner-ups
- prize money: US\$ 1,000 vs. **US\$ 2,000 (shared by IEEE and IFR), no runner-ups**
- alternating event organization vs. **shared event organization in each year**

# IERA Award

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## Participants

- The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (IEEE RAS)
- The International Federation of Robotics (IFR)

## Description

- purpose:
  - to highlight and honor the achievements of the inventors with value creating ideas and entrepreneurs who propel those ideas into world-class products
  - to underline the determination of both organizations to promote stronger collaboration between robotics science and robotics industry
- duration: initially for another 2 years (2008-2009), automatic renewal for the same period
- fourth edition: Automatica 2008, Munich, Germany
- no conflict with existing IEEE RAS awards

## Administration

- IEEE RAS
- IFR

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## Eligibility

- All applications submitted to nomination committee. No restrictions as to IEEE or IFR membership, organization, nationality, race, creed, sex, or age. Prize Items
- A US\$ 2,000 prize to be shared by all authors and plaques for individual authors.

## Funds

- The award is jointly sponsored by IEEE RAS (US\$ 1,000) **and** IFR (US\$ 1,000) for an initial period of 2 years, to be automatically renewed for the same period.
- Why US\$ 2,000 instead of US\$ 1,000?
  - price money needs to have some significance to attract company applications
  - a shared price money is documenting the shared effort of academia and industry
  - if IEEE RAS is contributing US\$ 1,000 it is not paying more than for any other award

## Solicitation of Applications:

- joint IEEE-IFR call, to be published in the R&A Magazine, on RAS and IFR websites, through various mailing lists, advertisement in conferences, exhibitions and publications

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## Award Committee:

- joint selection committee appointed by IEEE RAS and IFR having either IEEE RAS membership or work for an IFR member company with an appropriate expertise in the field of robotics and automation

## Selection/Basis for Judging:

- Factors and descriptions to be considered are:
  - the unique characteristics of the transformation into the commercialized application / product
  - the commercial application / product itself and its novelty
  - the current and future impact of the commercial application / product
  - the sustained competitive advantage of the commercial application / product
  - the clarity of the presentation

## Schedule:

- The selection of finalists will be made by the awards committee well in time before the meeting at which the award will be given.
- Each finalist has to give a presentation in front of the award committee.
- The winner is usually selected in an open session at a major robotics conference / exhibition or at an independent workshop / forum in parallel to the event in question.

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## **Publicity:**

- Call for nominations will be published in the R&A Magazine, on RAS and IFR websites, through various mailing lists, advertisement in conferences, exhibitions and publications.

