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IEEE ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION SOCIETY  
**NEWSLETTER**

APRIL 2026

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**AWARDS**

**2026 IEEE RAS Award Recipients Announced**



The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society recognizes and congratulates the following individuals for their outstanding accomplishments and service to RAS and the robotics and automation community. They will be honored during an award ceremony, which will be held at the IEEE International Conference on Robotics & Automation (ICRA 2026) in June. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding recipients!

[Award Recipient List](#)

**MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY NEWS**

## Discover the New RAS Feature Section

We are excited to announce the launch of “RAS Feature,” a dedicated space on our website for exclusive insights from our various Boards. Dive into our [latest articles](#) today, and stay tuned as we continue to share expert perspectives with our community.

## IROS 2026 Travel Grants for Undergraduate Students with Passion for Robotics Standards

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society is offering three to attend IROS 2026 in Pittsburgh, USA! Students Participating in IEEE Robotic Standardization Efforts (SPIRSE) is a unique opportunity to participate in active standardization meetings and network with global leaders in the field.

The Award Includes up to US\$2,500 in travel and hotel support, complimentary IEEE & RAS memberships, and more!

We are looking for undergrads with a passion for robotics standards. Priority is given to those who wouldn't otherwise be attending (e.g., those without an accepted paper). You do not need to be a member to apply!

**Deadline: 1 May 2026**

[Apply Today!](#)

## 2027 RAS AdCom Election: Call for Nominations

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society membership will elect six new members of the Administrative Committee (AdCom) in 2026, each to serve a three-year term beginning 1 January 2027. The AdCom is the governing body of RAS. To nominate a candidate, whether someone else or yourself, contact the Society at [ras@ieee.org](mailto:ras@ieee.org) by **1 May 2026**.

[Read More](#)

## Call for Service-Learning Projects that Address Local Community Needs

IEEE RAS is partnering with EPICS in IEEE to support RAS Community Engineering Projects. The EPICS in IEEE service-learning projects are an opportunity for students to work with IEEE members and community organizations to address the local technological needs in their communities. Selected projects will receive up to US\$10,000, as well as mentorship and resources. The deadline to submit project proposals is **1 May 2026**.

[Learn More](#)

## IEEE Summer School on Telerobotics and Cyborg Technologies

Applications are now open for the 2026 IEEE Summer School on Telerobotics and Cyborg Technologies & the Multi-Robot Teleoperation Unified User Interface (UUI) Design Challenge! The in-person summer school will be located at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, NY, USA from 13-17 July 2026.

Are you a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow working at the intersection telepresence, robotics, humanoids, AI, human-robot interaction, and/or AI ethics with real-world applications in mind? Then this summer school is for you!

The deadline to apply is **1 May 2026**.

More details, including the list of already-confirmed speakers, are available at the summer school [website](#).

## Call for 2026 RAS Award Nominations



The poster features a dark blue background with a circular inset showing a person operating a drone against a sunset sky. The IEEE Robotics & Automation Society logo is in the top left. The main title 'IEEE RAS SOCIETY AWARDS' is in large white letters, with 'CALL FOR NOMINATIONS' in orange below it. A list of award categories is provided in two columns. A yellow banner at the bottom states 'SUBMIT BY 1 SEPTEMBER 2026'. At the very bottom, there is a paragraph of text and the IEEE logo.

IEEE Robotics & Automation Society

### IEEE RAS SOCIETY AWARDS

#### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| IEEE RAS Pioneer Award  | IEEE RAS Award for Product Innovation             |
| IEEE RAS George Saridis Leadership Award in Robotics and Automation           | IEEE RAS Most Active Technical Committee Award    |
| IEEE RAS Distinguished Service Award  | IEEE RAS Section Chapter of the Year Award        |
| IEEE RAS Early Academic Career Award in Robotics and Automation               | IEEE RAS Student Branch Chapter of the Year Award |
| IEEE RAS Early Government or Industry Career Award in Robotics and Automation | IEEE RAS Distinguished Student Leadership Award   |
| IEEE Inaba Technical Award for Innovation Leading to Production               |   |

**SUBMIT BY 1 SEPTEMBER 2026**

A description and list of previous recipients of each award is available at <https://www.ieee-ras.org/awards-recognition/society-awards>. Nominators should use the appropriate **Nomination Forms**, which are available in the **awards** section of the site. Nominations can be completed online or sent to [ras@ieee.org](mailto:ras@ieee.org).

IEEE

Who's shaping the future of robotics and automation? Do you know a visionary researcher, educator, or innovator who deserves global recognition?

Nominate them for a prestigious IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) Award! These honors celebrate outstanding contributions across research, education, service, and industry.

**Deadline: 1 September 2026 (Midnight US ET)**

[Learn More](#)

CONFERENCES

## ICRA 2026: The Future of Robotics Heads to Vienna



The IEEE Conference on Robotics and Automation ([ICRA 2026](#)), held 18 - 22 May at the Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center. This is the premier global gathering for researchers and industry leaders to showcase the latest breakthroughs in the field.

Visit the conference website to explore the full technical program, check key deadlines, and secure your spot.

[Register Now](#)

### 2026 RAS Events at ICRA Announced

We are thrilled to kick off the International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2026) in the heart of Austria. The Robotics and Automation Society has curated an energetic lineup of programming designed specifically for our members and attendees to connect, collaborate, and grow.

**RAS Town Hall:** Meet the leadership team in person to hear about the future of our Society and share your direct feedback.

**Networking & Socials:** Unwind and build new professional bridges during our various social mixers.

**Specialized Sessions:** Dive deep into niche technical areas through our targeted forums, expert panels, and leadership meetings.

[Full Schedule](#)

## Call for ICRA 2026 Science Communication Ambassadors



The Robotics and Automation Society Media Services Board is searching for Science Communication ambassadors for the upcoming 2026 IEEE International Conference on Robotics & Automation (ICRA).

Ambassadors help create and post content about all the exciting events happening at the conference. Your coverage could include videos, interviews, podcasts, blogs, social media, or art. If you are social media-savvy or have expertise on other platforms and plan to attend ICRA 2026, apply now! Science Communication Ambassadors receive up to US\$1,000 in travel support for their help.

The deadline is **30 April 2026**.

[Learn More](#)

## RoboSoft 2026 Science Communication Ambassadors Announced



Thank you to everyone who applied! We loved learning about you and encourage you to apply for future opportunities.

Congratulations to Rawan Omar and Jack Kalicak!

## PUBLICATIONS

### New Issue of *ToH* available on IEEE *Xplore*

We are pleased to announce that new issues of our publications are now available on IEEE *Xplore*. Check them out!

- *IEEE Transactions on Haptics (ToH)*: [a new batch of papers](#) is now available!

[Learn More](#)

### Special Call for Papers: *IEEE T-ASE*

The *IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering* has announced new Special Issues! Submit your breakthrough research and help bridge the gap between theory and industrial practice!

[Explore Topics](#)

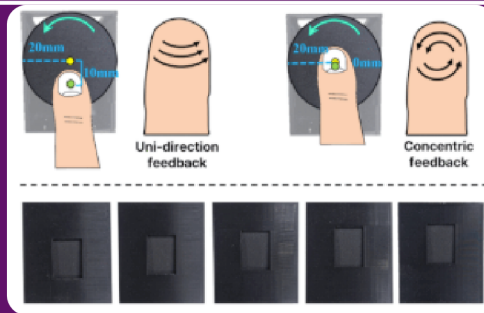
## New Journal Alert: *IEEE Transactions on Robot Learning*

RAS launched *IEEE Transactions on Robot Learning (T-RL)*! It publishes fundamental advances in development and use of AI methods that address challenges specific to robotic and automation systems, incorporating the constraints and opportunities present in physical systems, and tackling key barriers to the full deployment of AI in a robot from perception to control.

[Submission Site](#)

[Learn More](#)

## Publication Spotlight



[Read More](#)

### SpinTexture: Exploring Scanning Realism From Concentric to Uni-Directional Slip Feedback Using a Spinning Textured Disk

This *IEEE Transactions on Haptics (ToH)* paper is Comparing concentric rotational haptic feedback to traditional unidirectional skin-slip for VR texture scanning. Using a custom device with sandpaper and silk textures, three user studies found radial distance variations from rotation center don't significantly impact scanning realism, validating fingertip-sized concentric feedback as a compact alternative to bulky systems.

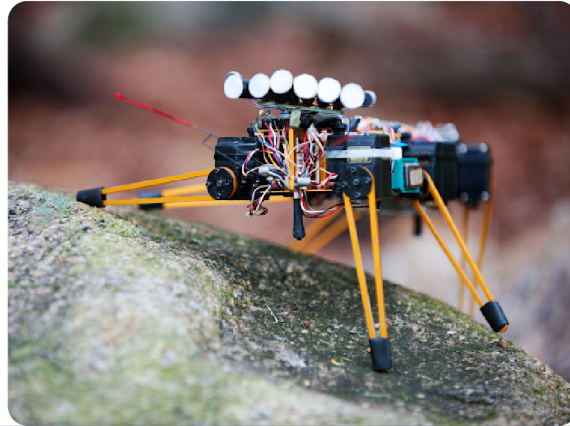
Authors: Donghyeon Kim, Gunhyuk Park

**SPECTRUM ROBOTS GUIDE**

## ROBOT OF THE MONTH

[Genghis](#) was a six-legged robot built by Rodney Brooks at MIT in the 1980s. It demonstrated how complex behaviors such as crawling can emerge from a network of simple, decentralized controllers.

[Learn More](#)



Discover Genghis on the [IEEE Spectrum Robots Guide](#), which RAS co-sponsors. This Guide is an interactive catalog featuring hundreds of real-world bots, including humanoids, drones, self-driving cars, and more. Browse detailed technical specs and read the latest news in the robotics field!

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