



IEEE ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The New IEEE RAS Website Has Launched!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the new and improved IEEE Robotics and Automation Society website! Designed to be your central hub for all things RAS, the new site features a more modern and user-friendly interface for everyone looking to learn more about what we do.

We invite you to explore the site and discover all the new resources available!

[Explore](#)

New Reviewer-Author Balance Tracking System for IEEE RAS Publications

RAS implemented a reviewer/author tracking system in PaperCept in order to address a significant imbalance between the number of papers submitted and number of reviewers performed. You can access it from the "compile your activity" report menu. This tool monitors how many papers an author reviews compared to the number of submissions they make, with the goal of achieving a fairer balance. The system started tracking on **1 January 2026**.

Many of you contribute in other ways, such as serving in demanding executive roles within IEEE RAS (ExCom members, TC Chairs, Editor-in-Chiefs, Senior Editors, or Associate Editors, etc). These contributions will be accounted for. While they are not yet reflected in the system, they will be included in the coming year.

For our Society to continue advancing, we must work together to balance submissions and reviews. Your participation is critical to sustaining the quality and reputation of IEEE RAS publications.

Launch of the IEEE RAS University (RAS-U): Open-Access Education on Robotics and Automation

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (IEEE RAS) is proud to announce the launch of **RAS University (RAS-U)**, a comprehensive web-based educational program designed to offer **free education in robotics** to all worldwide.

Who is RAS-U For?

- **Self-Learners:** Master complex robotics topics at your own pace with a guided structure.
- **Undergraduate and graduate students (BSc, MSc, PhD):** Supplement university coursework on robotics with expert-made tutorials and practical simulations.
- **Practitioners in Industry:** keep up to date with the latest developments in robotics by taking advanced courses covering novel control and design methods
- **Educators:** Utilize high-quality, peer-reviewed materials to enhance classroom instruction.

RAS-U consists of a curated series of **interactive lessons**, covering a wide range of domains, from **fundamental concepts to advanced robotics applications**.

Key Features of the Platform:

- **Structured Learning Paths:** A curated series of lessons taking learners from fundamental concepts to advanced robotics applications.
- **Multimodal Content:** Each lesson integrates curated short video lectures, in-depth text explanations, and real-world examples.
- **Hands-On Simulation:** Integrated tutorials using **Webots**, allowing users to write code and simulate robots directly on their machines.
- **Comprehensive Exercises:** A mix of conceptual quizzes, mathematical problems, and programming challenges to test and reinforce understanding.

[Get Started Today](#)

The platform is live and open to all. Begin your journey into robotics.

This first release entails a set of **15 lessons covering Foundation of Robot Perception and Control**, as well as a set of **Advanced Courses on Learning from Human Demonstration and Control of Unmanned Vehicles**.

A second release, comprising an additional set of 20 lessons covering advances across all areas of robotics—from humanoids, medical robotics to soft robotics and robotics for sustainability—is planned for Summer 2026.

RAS-U has been created at EPFL under leadership of Prof. Aude Billard, president of IEEE RAS.

Should you wish to contribute to RAS-U by creating additional educational content, [contact us](#).

AWARDS

Call for IEEE Fellow Nominations, Class of 2027

Deadline: 7 February 2026

Nominations for the IEEE Fellows Class of 2027 are now being accepted. Nominate a colleague, coworker, or friend whose career and body of work you consider eligible for elevation to the IEEE Fellow grade. IEEE Fellow is a distinction reserved for select IEEE members whose extraordinary accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest are deemed fitting of this prestigious grade elevation.

Apply Online

All forms (nominations, references, and endorsements) must be submitted no later than 7 February at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Eligibility

To be nominated as a Fellow, a recipient must:

- Have accomplishments that have contributed importantly to the advancement or application of engineering, science, and technology, bringing the realization of significant value to society
- Hold Senior Member or Life Senior Member grade at the time the nomination is submitted
- Have been a member in good standing in any grade for a period of five years or more preceding 1 January of the year of elevation.

[Learn More](#)

2026 IERA Award - Call for Applications

The purpose of this award is to highlight and honor the achievements of the inventors with value creating ideas and entrepreneurs who propel those ideas into world-class products. This is a key element to the continuing success of robotics and automation today. Active infusion of innovation and entrepreneurship into technological advancement is regarded as critical at this juncture to strengthen a healthy balance between research and practice, as well as a healthy growth of industrial and commercial sectors in robotics and automation.

In a joint event, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society and the International Federation of Robotics will therefore recognize and honor outstanding personal achievements of entrepreneurs in the commercialization of innovative robotic and automation technology.

These achievements will be recognized in a specially organized IEEE/IFR Joint Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Robotics and Automation on 4 June 2026 which is being held in conjunction with the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) from 1 - 5 June 2026 in Vienna, Austria.

The selected finalists will have the opportunity to present their story of the genesis of a successful innovative product in robotics and automation from its very inception to the final state of commercialization in a series of plenary lectures. The ultimate winner will be chosen by an evaluation board consisting of distinguished individuals from industry and academia.

Applications should describe the original work that already has been translated into a commercial success (which can be bought or ordered).

The application must include statements regarding:

- description of the innovation/product/application novelty/uniqueness of the product sustained competitive advantage
- stages of the product genesis
- market analysis, economic viability and pathway for commercialization (ideally including business plan and KPI's)
- current and future impact on and relevance to industry
- name of the recipient of the prize (this is a personal award)

Applications should not exceed a maximum length of 5 pages. Product descriptions and public relation material will not be accepted as an application. References and links to online material are permitted.

Submission of applications: Please send as PDF document (< 10 MB) no later than 15 February 2026 either to secretariat@ifr.org or to RAS@ieee.org.

MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY NEWS

Chapter Initiative Grant Applications

Are you involved in your local Chapter? Then take note: the first deadline for the RAS Chapter Initiative Grants for 2026 is coming soon! Grant Submission #1 deadline is on 31 January, make sure to submit your Chapter application then.

[Learn More](#)

CALL: Students Participating in IEEE Robotic Standardization Efforts (SPIRSE)

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society is interested in encouraging students to play an active role in existing robotics standardization efforts. IEEE RAS has multiple standardization efforts, which can be found [here](#). To help encourage student participation, funds have been set aside to provide travel support to students interested in attending the [IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation \(ICRA\)](#) in Vienna, Austria from 1-5 June, where numerous IEEE robotics standardization meetings will be held.

We expect to award three travel grants to cover flights, hotel reservations, and conference registration within the IEEE guidelines and not to exceed US\$3,000 each. Priority will be given to students who would not have otherwise attended ICRA (e.g., do not have a paper accepted), and priority will also be given to undergraduate students. You do not need to be an IEEE member to apply. Complimentary IEEE and RAS memberships will be included in the award.

Reimbursements will be processed after attendance at ICRA. Selected students will be expected to participate in the full-day standards coordination meeting (if scheduled), as well as participate in a number of standards working group meetings. They will also be required to write a 2-3 page report, submitted to IEEE RAS, describing their experiences at the conference and how they expect to use what they learned in the future. Lastly, one letter of recommendation is required.

Applications are due 1 February 2026, and notification of acceptance is expected on or around 1 March 2026.

[Learn More and Apply!](#)

Call for Proposals: 2027 RAS TEP Programs

Each year, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) offers financial support for its Technical Education Program (TEP), also known as its “Seasonal Schools” program. The RAS TEP program is jointly run by the RAS Educational Activities Board (EAB) and the RAS Technical Activities Board (TAB). The program sponsors schools around the world, to be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.

Program Updates: This year, the program has been updated to better serve the diverse needs of the robotics community. Proposals must now be submitted to one of the three tracks listed below. Please note that organizers may apply to only one track per cycle.

Main Track TEP: Designed for established research programs, this track focuses on cutting-edge, research-oriented content for early-stage graduate students. Proposals should come from teams with a strong history of RAS engagement and publication (funding: up to US\$25,000).

Emerging Track TEP: Designed for regions with nascent robotics communities, this track builds fundamental knowledge and research capacity from the ground up. It focuses on institutions or participants with limited prior access to established robotics research programs (funding: up to US\$10,000).

Practitioner Track TEP: Designed for undergraduate Chapters and newcomers to the field, this track focuses on capacity development, hands-on tools, and practical technologies (funding: up to US\$10,000).

The **application submission deadline is 15 April 2026**. Reach out to ras@ieee.org with questions.

[Submission Form](#)

[Learn More](#)

Renew Your RAS Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership! By being a part of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, you've taken a significant step in your professional journey.

[Renew Today!](#)

CONFERENCES



ICRA@40 Sessions Available On-Demand

It's been one year since we marked 40 years of robotics excellence at ICRA@40, and now, we're bringing that milestone to your screen. One session at a time, we're releasing the keynotes, panels, and reflections that made the anniversary unforgettable.

[Watch Sessions](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

28 February 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: AIM 2026

1 March 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: IROS 2026

PUBLICATIONS

Upcoming Deadlines

15 February 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [T-RO Special Collection on Robot-Assisted Medical Imaging](#)

20 February 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [T-FR SI on Precision Agriculture and Forestry](#)

21 February 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [T-FR SI on Space Robotics](#)

30 July 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [ToHSI on Haptics for Human-Interaction Oriented Teleoperation: Sensorimotor Augmentation, Interfaces, and Control](#)

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