



IEEE ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

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AWARDS

Call for Nominations: IEEE-RAS Outstanding Women in Robotics & Automation (WiRA) Paper Awards @ ICRA26

Following the tremendous success of our Outstanding WiRA awards last year at ICRA, CASE and IROS the IEEE-RAS Women in Engineering Committee is proud to continue recognizing excellence in robotics research!

We're seeking nominations for TWO prestigious awards:

- Outstanding WiRA Student Paper Award - For female students with first-authored papers accepted at ICRA 2026
- Outstanding WiRA Early Career Contribution Award - For early-career female researchers (within 7 years post-PhD) who supervised/directed the research on a paper accepted at ICRA 2026

What's in it for winners?

- US\$1,000 prize for travel & research costs
- Presentation and award ceremony at the ICRA Women in Engineering Luncheon (2 June)
- Recognition certificates

Deadline is 6 April 2026 (11:59pm AOE)

Let's celebrate and encourage the incredible contributions of women in robotics! Please note: These awards require self-nomination, so don't hesitate to put yourself forward - if your work was accepted at ICRA, it's already recognized as excellent research!

[Full Nomination Details](#)

IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Announces 2026 Class of Fellows

Congratulations to the following IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) members who were elevated to Fellow grade, effective 1 January 2026! Nominees for IEEE Fellow must hold the grade of Senior Member or Life Senior Member to qualify for elevation to Fellow status.

[2026 Class of Fellows](#)

MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY NEWS

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 by **1 May 2026**.

[Read more](#) to learn about responsibilities, eligibility, and how to nominate someone else or yourself!

2nd Call for Nominations — IEEE RAS Technical Committee Co-Chairs

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) Technical Activities Board (TAB) is opening a second call for nominations for TC Co-Chair positions in three Technical Committees that still have open leadership roles.

Open Positions:

- TC on Automation in Healthcare Management - 2 openings
- TC on Performance Evaluation & Benchmarking - 2 openings
- TC on Safety, Security & Rescue Robotics - 3 openings

TC Co-Chairs play a key role in shaping their technical community by organizing workshops and activities, fostering collaboration, and helping guide emerging research directions within robotics and automation. We welcome self-nominations and nominations from the community.

Nomination deadline is 3 April 2026.

[Read More](#)

Call for Service-Learning Projects that Address Local Community Needs

Deadline: 1 May 2026

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS:
Student-Driven
Community
Engineering
Projects**

Students are encouraged to submit proposals that drive local community impact by designing and deploying engineering solutions that meet their communities' technological needs.

Selected projects will receive up to **US\$10,000, mentorship, and resources.**
Accepting Proposals: 1 March - 1 May 2026

Submit your proposal and *be part of a movement where engineering meets social good.*

EPICS IN IEEE
Engineering Projects in Community Service

IEEE Robotics & Automation Society

IEEE

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](#)

RAS Member Spotlight

Sabine Hauert, the Robotics and Automation Society Vice President for Media Services and Professor at the University of Bristol, has been recognized by the British monarchy with an honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (honorary OBE).

[Full Article](#)

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 program sponsors schools around the world, to be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.

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 - Funding up to US\$25,000

Emerging Track TEP - Funding up to US\$10,000

Practitioner Track TEP - Funding: Up to US\$10,000

The application submission deadline is 15 April 2026.

[Learn More & Form Submission](#)

CONFERENCES

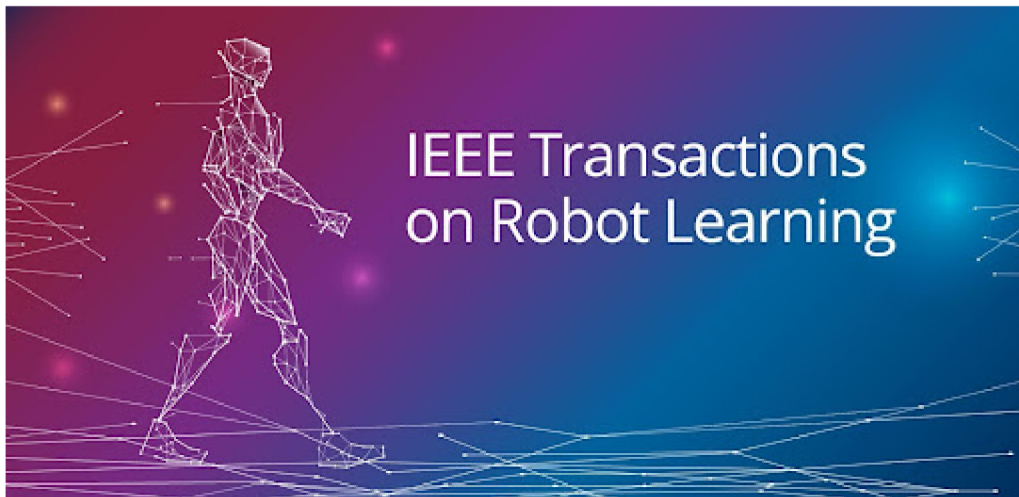
Upcoming Conference Deadlines

10 April 2026: Call for Papers - [2026 IEEE International Conference on Mechatronics and Automation \(ICMA\)](#)

10 April 2026: Call for Papers - [Paper submission deadline: CACRE: 2026 11th International Conference on Automation, Control and Robotics Engineering \(CACRE\)](#)

20 April 2026: Call for Papers - [2026 International Conference on Information Automation \(ICIA\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS



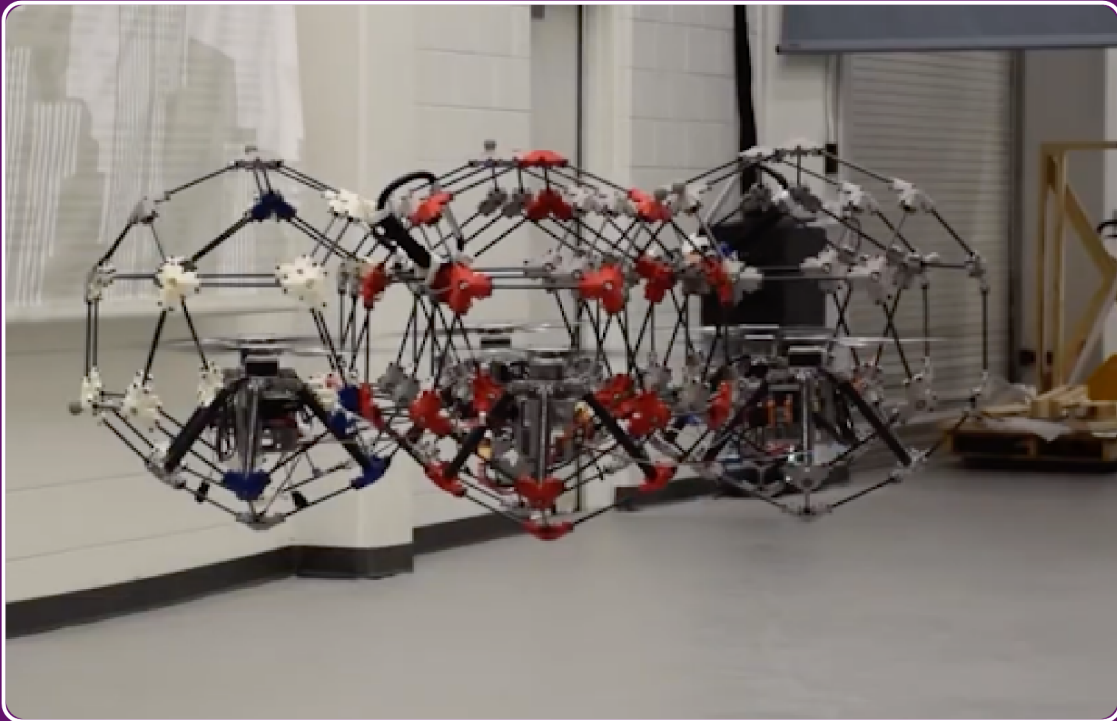
RAS is pleased to announce the launch of a new journal *IEEE Transactions on Robot Learning (T-RL)*. It publishes fundamental advances in development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) methods that address challenges specific to robotic and automation systems, incorporating the constraints and opportunities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

Todd Murphey (Northwestern University) and Vincent Vanhoucke (Waymo), the founding co-Editors-in-Chief of *T-RL*, will work closely with an Editorial Board and the *T-RL* Advisory Board including Aude Billard (EPFL), Ken Goldberg (UC Berkeley), and Frank Park (Seoul National University).

The [submission site](#) opens on **30 March**.

[Learn More](#)

Publication Spotlight



[Read More](#)

[Watch on YouTube](#)

The Dodecacoaster: A Versatile Multirotor System of Dodecahedron-Shaped Modules

In this recent *T-RO* paper, the authors introduce the Dodecacoaster — a modular UAV made of regular dodecahedron modules that can assemble into 3D, fully actuated configurations beyond flat drone arrays. A prototype flies in multiple shapes, showing versatility and adaptability for aerial robotics.

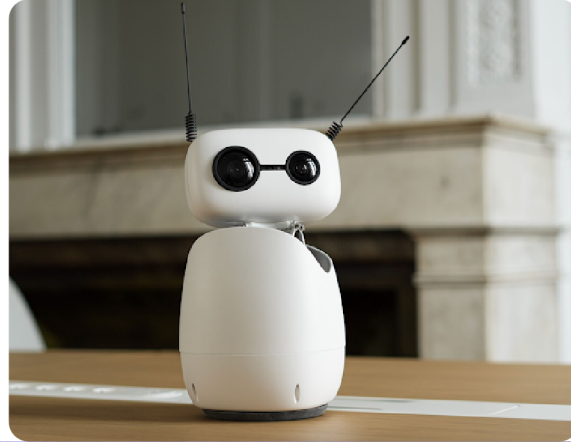
Authors: Kévin Garanger, Thanakorn Khamvilai, Jeremy Epps, and Eric Feron

***SPECTRUM* ROBOTS GUIDE**

ROBOT OF THE MONTH

[Reachy Mini](#) is an expressive companion robot designed for human-robot interaction, creative coding, and AI experimentation. Built as a low-cost, accessible platform, it offers a hands-on way to explore robots powered by modern AI models and supported by a growing open-source robotics community.

[Learn More](#)



Discover Reachy Mini 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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