



Innovative KUKA applications at IROS research fair

Vancouver, September 2017 – Autograph of a robot: KUKA will be participating in the robotic conference IROS, demonstrating the flexible transfer of individual shapes and scripts with two innovative applications.

In cooperation with the University of Alberta, the Augsburg automation specialist will be showcasing a robot system that creates freehand inscriptions on nearly any object imaginable. The system – a KUKA flexFellow, on which the sensitive lightweight robot LBR iiwa is mounted – is able to transfer user-defined templates onto various surfaces.

Visitors to the booth create their own template, such as a drawing or signature. This is then transferred to their object of choice, for example a mug or ball. For this, optical sensors first capture the necessary information about the surface.

Next, a pen held by the robot traces the template exactly, transferring it to the surface. The sensitive capabilities of the LBR iiwa help to compensate for any inaccuracies that result from the surface measurements, and they also help to move the pen across the surface with the appropriate amount of force.

Another innovative exhibit is an autograph machine. Here, visitors insert an “autograph card” into the cell and a robot signs it with the accurate signature of a famous person.

While waiting for their signature, the visitor watches a film showing the VIP signing their autograph with a pen held by the robot. In order to ensure as accurate a signature as possible, KUKA has made significant improvements to the robot’s force control, implemented here on a KUKA KR3 AGILUS robot with a force/torque sensor.

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About IROS 2017

The International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) is one of the most important robotics conferences worldwide and brings together about 2,000 automation specialists each year. Here, attendees can exchange views on the latest innovations and technical products in workshops, forums, discussions and exhibitions. The conference is sponsored in part by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), the world's largest professional association of engineers, as well as by other associations and societies.

This year, IROS is being held in Vancouver, Canada, where it will be celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. With the slogan "Friendly People, Friendly Robots", the collaborative partnership between humans and robots is taking center stage at this year's conference. The cooperation between humans and robots brings with it new technical challenges and research opportunities that are increasingly being pushed into the foreground. KUKA is not only involved in its own exhibits; the company will also be helping with the organization and moderation of forums, and employees will be contributing scientific presentations and taking part in podium discussions and various workshops.



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KUKA Aktiengesellschaft

KUKA is a global automation corporation with sales of around 3 billion euro and around 13,200 employees. As leading global supplier of intelligent automation solutions KUKA offers its customers in the automotive, electronics, consumer goods, metalworking, logistics/e-commerce, healthcare and service robotics industries everything they need from a single source: from components and cells to fully automated systems. The KUKA Group is headquartered in Augsburg.