



Press Release

## Open Platform Challenge: The KUKA Innovation Award 2023 breaks new ground

**Augsburg, 14 April 2022 – Get started right away, even without great expertise: the upcoming round of the KUKA Innovation Award is all about ease of use and maximum flexibility. For the first time, the €20,000 robotics competition will be based on KUKA’s new robot operating system and associated ecosystem – offering creative minds totally new opportunities.**

Many tasks in small and medium-sized enterprises are not yet automated. How can engineering, setup and programming be simplified? This is the topic addressed by the KUKA Innovation Award 2023.

Creative minds from the robotics community are invited to submit their ideas and concepts under the banner of an “Open Platform Challenge”. The goal is for end users to be able to automate tasks quickly and safely without being experts in the field of automation themselves.

“With our new iiQKA operating and ecosystem, robotics becomes intuitive and available to all,” says Dr. Kristina Wagner, Vice President Technology and Innovation Center & Director iiQKA. “As a result, more people than ever before are in a position to take advantage of the enormous benefits of automation. iiQKA provides the perfect basis for implementing entirely new and highly flexible ideas for production – and is therefore ideally suited for our Innovation Award.”

iiQKA offers open interfaces, intuitive operation and makes it much easier than before for users to implement their own hardware and software expansions on a KUKA robot.

To help them turn their ideas into reality, KUKA is providing the finalists with the sensitive LBR iisy cobot free of charge for the duration of the competition, including free training and coaching during the contest.

KUKA Aktiengesellschaft

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The final will take place at an industry trade fair in 2023, where the finalists will present their concepts to a wide-ranging expert audience and have an opportunity to make contacts and exchange ideas.

*All information about the Open Platform Challenge can be found [here](#).*

## KUKA

KUKA is a global automation corporation with sales of around 3.3 billion euro and roughly 14,000 employees. The company is headquartered in Augsburg, Germany. As one of the world's leading suppliers of intelligent automation solutions, KUKA offers customers everything they need from a single source: from robots and cells to fully automated systems and their networking in markets such as automotive, electronics, metal & plastic, consumer goods, e-commerce/retail and healthcare. (As at December 31, 2021)