



## Automation simple, intuitive and flexible: Italian research team wins KUKA Innovation Award 2023

**Augsburg, June 29, 2023 - Simple automation with robotics and artificial intelligence: With this innovative concept, the JARVIS research team has won the €20,000 KUKA Innovation Award 2023. An international jury selected the winners at the automatica trade fair in Munich.**

Get started right away, even without expert knowledge: The KUKA Innovation Award 2023 was all about simple operation and maximum flexibility of robots. For the first time, the robotics competition was based on the new KUKA robot operating system and associated ecosystem iiQKA.

iiQKA offers open interfaces, intuitive operation and makes it much easier to implement hardware and software extensions on a KUKA robot. This makes automation more accessible and new tasks can be automated, especially in small and medium-sized companies.

"More and more people in new fields and more and more industries are coming into contact with robotics and automation. Innovative software solutions, new cobots and creative concepts are making automation more available," said Dr. Kristina Wagner, Senior Vice President of the KUKA Automation Software Factory. "With the tenth round of the KUKA Innovation Award, we addressed this development. For the first time, our finalists implemented their ideas with iiQKA and our Cobot LBR iisy. We were impressed by the concepts around simple operation and maximum flexibility, especially for small and medium-sized companies."

### Plug and Play

In the end, the research team from the [Merlin Laboratory of the Italian Politecnico di Milano](#) convinced the international jury. JARVIS dealt with the development of a complete plug-and-play method for programming collaborative

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robotics applications, for example for assembly and packaging, which is fully integrated into the iiQKA ecosystem.

Together with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into the new iiQKA ecosystem, the concept enables unskilled operators to instruct the robot for a new task and generalize to unknown situations, including new tasks and product variants. Thus, thanks to AI, the robot can adapt to changes in the workspace without production downtime. JARVIS is aimed primarily at small and medium-sized companies in the manufacturing sector that want to deploy collaborative robots easily and quickly and use them effectively for placement and assembly.

### **About the KUKA Innovation Award 2023**

As part of the "Open Platform Challenge," the theme of this year's KUKA Innovation Awards, young robotics talent from around the world submitted their innovative concepts around easier setup, programming, and engineering. An international jury selected the three final teams. They presented their concepts to an international audience of experts directly at the KUKA booth at the automata trade fair in Munich.

[Read more about the Open Platform Challenge here](#)

### **KUKA**

KUKA is a global automation corporation with sales of around 4 billion euro and around 15,000 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 connectivity in markets such as automotive with a focus on e-mobility & battery, electronics, metal & plastic, consumer goods, e-commerce, retail and healthcare.

