



“2011: THE ROBUTER ODYSSEY”

ROBOSOFT predicts that by 2011, service robots, so-called “Robuters”, will be part of people’s everyday life

Brussels, 2006 November 9th: Today at Microsoft’s Innovation Day in Brussels, the event dedicated to giving government leaders, academic, industry stakeholders and media a sneak preview of the technologies of tomorrow, Vincent Dupourqué, CEO of ROBOSOFT, the European leader in service robotics, will explain why and how service robotics will be part of everybody’s life by 2011.

For this purpose, Vincent Dupourqué is giving a keynote speech, sharing the podium with world-class influencers in research & innovation, namely Matti Vanhanen, Finland’s Prime Minister and currently the President of the European Union; Charles Leadbeater, Innovation Adviser to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair; Bill Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation; and Jean-Philippe Courtois, President of Microsoft International. Some excerpts from Mr. Dupourqué’s speech:

“From our inception in 1985, we have developed hundreds of specific robotic solutions (...) In developing them, we discovered that software for robots was (is?) very different than software for computers (...) We had to abandon our notion that a robot was simply a computer with wheels and motors. It led us to new objects, which we called Robuters®!”

Mr. Dupourqué explains that, unlike in the scenarios proposed by science-fiction authors for robots such as the naughty robot, the android robot and so on, Robuters® are here to help people, not to replace them. They can offer real automated services in transportation, cleaning, security, entertainment... What is the rationale? Mr. Dupourqué provides two examples:

First, the aging population means fewer workers and more retired persons. An aging population requires more services like security, cleaning or short-distance transport. Robuters® will help elderly people wanting to stay at home as long as possible, helping them to move and communicate with their relatives. Today, such Robuters® already allow grandparents to stay permanently connected to their families who care for them, using UMTS telephones.

Mr. Dupourqué offers a second example: Robuters® will help poor countries to develop and keep up with industrial countries. On its booth, ROBOSOFT is already demonstrating a remote tele-echography robot which can be installed anywhere in the world by any medical



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assistant and operated by a specialist from his desk, using available data transmission systems. Thus the latest medical advances and the highest levels of expertise are no longer out of reach of less industrialized countries and people.

Mr. Dupourqué predicts that by 2011, Robuters® will be part of everyday life, exactly the same way computers are part of their life today. "2011, the Robuter® Odyssey!" Mr. Dupourqué is calling European research and industry to take the challenge with him.

About ROBOSOFT

ROBOSOFT is one of the worldwide leaders of service robotic solutions. Thanks to its high level skills in all scientific and technical fields, ROBOSOFT has developed and supplied since 1985 evolutive and modular solutions for transport, cleaning, security, health and research applications.

ROBOSOFT's clients are operators of large buildings and sites open to the public (hospitals, airports, museums, shopping centres, train/bus stations, campuses, amusement and other parks), service providers (urban transportation entities, cleaning companies, security services), integrators operating on those markets and public and private research laboratories. More on www.robosoft.fr.

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