

Press release
ROBOSOFT

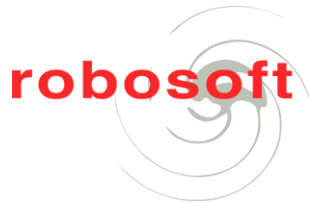
The French Army orders 15 EOD mobile robots to ROBOSOFT

Satory, December 18 th: The DCMAT (Direction Centrale du Matériel de l'Armée de Terre – Army Logistics Center) has just ordered 8 PackBot type mobile robots. This first 1.8M€ order also includes specialized customization, as well as upgrading existing equipment, and operational maintenance over three years. These robots are mainly intended to equip French troops abroad (principally in Afghanistan). A second order of 7 additional robots is planned for the first quarter of 2009.

"The products distributed by ROBOSOFT were highly rated in comparative analyses. The company advised us in making technical choices", said Lieutenant-Colonel Peyronnet, the officer in charge of NEDEX (Neutralisation Enlèvement et Destruction d'Explosifs - bomb-disposal) equipment in the logistics department at DCMAT. "But it was in setting up the organizational support and highly-specialized maintenance necessary for this type of equipment that ROBOSOFT's experience in the service-robotics industry proved invaluable."

ROBOSOFT is currently the exclusive distributor in France for PackBots, manufactured by iROBOT (USA). Within the scope of its security-robot activities, ROBOSOFT is pursuing a strategy of partnering and of supplying services rather than developing its own products. "The resources needed for developing this type of robot are beyond the means of a French, and even perhaps of a European SME, stated Vincent Dupourqué, CEO of ROBOSOFT. "However, the technical advances of the PackBot allow firms specializing in robotics, such as ours, to do custom adaptations for specific client needs. It's really like developing specialized applications on a standard PC!"

Having already delivered 12 PackBots to NEDEX in 2005, having designed and built the 6-wheel drive robot REC within the PEA-MINIROC program, and having launched a study in 2008 of fast all-terrain robots within the framework of an REI (Exploratory and Innovative Research) program, ROBOSOFT has over the years become one the main partners of the French Army in the area of mobile robotics.



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About ROBOSOFT

ROBOSOFT, one of the oldest startups from INRIA, has become one of the European leaders in service robot solutions. With over 20 years of scientific and industrial expertise in this domain, ROBOSOFT has been supplying advanced robotics solutions in the transportation, security, cleaning, supervision, health and research industries since 1985.

Beyond professional applications, the era of personal robotics is approaching fast. ROBOSOFT believes that its service robots, called "roboters", will be part of everyday life within the next five years. According to the Japan Robotics Association's predictions, the world market for service and personal robotics will reach 17 billion dollars by 2010. Roboters will make everybody's life easier in activities such as entertainment, education, culture, health, assistance for the elderly and the handicapped, etc. In order to make these applications real, ROBOSOFT already integrates 80% of programming complexity into its robuBOX, a module programmed using Microsoft Robotics Developer Studio (<http://www.microsoft.com/robotics>). robuBOX is already incorporated into the heart of ROBOSOFT robots, but can also be licenced to robotics integrators and manufacturers for mass production.

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CEO, ROBOSOFT

About DCMAT

The Logistics Center handles, whenever and wherever needed, procurement, deployment, and management of all equipment and ammunitions necessary for all branches of the army to carry out their missions. Logistics is involved in five domains:

- Upkeep and maintenance of equipment for units deployable abroad as well as based at home;
- Management of equipment, ammunitions, and spare parts for the entire Army;
- Procurement of equipment, spare parts, and ammunitions for Army units;
- Logging technical maintenance and the control of technical availability of equipment;
- Training maintenance for the personnel for the Army, the Air Force, and the Gendarmerie, as well as for foreign armies, in all specializations and at all levels. This training takes place at ESAM (l'Ecole Supérieure et d'Application du Matériel - Maintenance Technical School) in Bourges.

From January 2010 the DCMAT missions and statutes will change into the SIMMT (Service interarmées de maintien en condition opérationnelle des matériels terrestres - Joint Forces Maintenance Services for Terrestrial Equipment), with sole responsibility for terrestrial equipment.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Franck Peyronnet, Direction Centrale du Matériel

About iROBOT

Founded in 1990 by Massachusetts Institute of Technology roboticists, iRobot Corp. specializes in behavior-based robots that help people complete tasks with better results. Powered by iRobot's unique AWARE™ Robot Intelligence Systems, the company's robots can navigate in complex and dynamic real-world situations. To date, the company has sold more than 3 million iRobot Roomba® Vacuuming Robots worldwide, making it the best-selling consumer robot in history. Also, more than 2,000 iRobot PackBot® Tactical Mobile Robots have been delivered to a broad range of military and civilian customers around the world. These robots have performed tens of thousands of missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and are credited with saving scores of soldiers' lives.

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