

Press release  
ROBOSOFT / VULCANIA

## ***ROBOSOFT delivers 3 Autonomous GPS Guided Vehicles to Vulcania***

**Vulcania, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008** *ROBOSOFT announces the delivery of three VolcanBuls to Vulcania. These vehicles, without a driver and guided exclusively by GPS, take visitors on a 1km tour through the park to observe the Puy volcanic mountains and to learn about their history.*

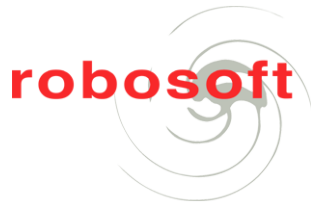
*"We wish to introduce our visitors to the natural beauty that surrounds us through an animation that is innovative in its design and technology, and respectful of the concept of the park", says Catherine Damesin, Manager of Vulcania. "The idea was to allow visitors to enjoy a drive through the outdoors by putting silent vehicles at their disposal for a guided tour. We wanted a solution that wouldn't disturb the park with noisy and polluting technology: ROBOSOFT's autonomous guiding solution lived up perfectly to our expectations."*

*"Thanks to development supported by the European Commission and by France for nearly 10 years, we have been able to make use of the first wholly autonomous and exclusively GPS guided transport system", says Vincent Dupourqué, President of ROBOSOFT. "For this, ROBOSOFT has developed a universal platform, the robuRIDE-28, whose upper part can be thematically customized." In Vulcania's case, this was handled by LOFTUS ([www.loftus.fr](http://www.loftus.fr)).*

The guidance system is a hybrid, combining differential GPS with inertial guidance and odometry, which can take over in case of loss of the GPS signal. This combined system results in route-following with up-to-the-centimeter accuracy at the VolcanBul's maximum speed of 12 km/h. Implementation was made possible through the integration of Inertial+ from OXTS (<http://www.oxts.co.uk>) into the robuBOX, developed by ROBOSOFT,

Vulcania is today the world's first site where such an autonomous transportation system has been installed and certified. No driver, as well as the lack of need for any specific infrastructure, and its exploitation in an area shared by walkers make the VolcanBul particularly well adapted for all sites welcoming the public, such as city centers, airports, hospitals, campuses, amusement parks, etc...

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### ***About the robuBOX***

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ROBOSOFT started the development of the robuBOX in 2006, with the idea of a Universal Robotic Engine which can be installed «under the hood» of any service robot. Several robots equipped with preliminary versions of the robuBOX have already been deployed: Estele, a tele-ultrasound scan robot in 4 french hospitals, robuCAB, a driverless GPS guided vehicle, as well as several multi-purpose mobile platforms like robuLAB<sup>10</sup> for assistant robots at home or robuROC for security. The robuBOX, which allows customers to build complex advanced robotics solutions, has been developed and can be customized using Microsoft® Robotics Developer Studio (see [www.microsoft.com/robotics](http://www.microsoft.com/robotics)).

### ***About Vulcania***

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Located in the *Parc Naturel Régional des Volcans d'Auvergne*, Vulcania is the Adventure of the Earth Park. Since 2007, the New Vulcania has invited visitors to discover the Earth's fascinating phenomena and uncover its mysteries. All the attractions and exhibitions have been approved by Vulcania's scientific team. The New Vulcania has more than 9 new exciting attractions: *Dragon Ride, the Grand Geyser, The VolcanBul, Giant scale-models, The Forces of Nature, Earthquakes & Tsunamis, Planet Observer, the Great Crater, Magma Explorer* and the *Awakening of Auvergne's Sleeping Giants!* Since it was first opened, the park has welcomed more than 2 million visitors.

see [www.vulcania.fr](http://www.vulcania.fr)

### ***About ROBOSOFT***

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ROBOSOFT is the european leader 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, 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 amusement, education, culture, health, assistance for the elderly and the handicapped, etc. In order to make these applications real, ROBOSOFT already integrates 80% of programing complexity into its robuBOX, a module programmed using Microsoft® Robotics Developer Studio. 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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