

## NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ROBOTICS

Two more IFR member associations have established home pages on the World Wide Web. BRA (formerly the British Robot Association) can be found at <http://www.bra-automation.co.uk>, and the Danish Industrial Robot Association (DIRA) has its home page at <http://inet.uni-c.dk/~i29876>.

The IFR itself is establishing a presence on the World Wide Web. In the interim, information about IFR can be found on the Robotica Web site at <http://www.cup.cam.ac.uk/journals/jnlscat/rob/robIFR.html>.

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The 28th International Symposium on Robotics (and the first to refer to the field as 'Robotics' rather than 'Industrial Robots') will take place in Detroit, USA from 13 to 15 May (1997). The symposium is being organised by two US organisations – the Robotic Industries Association and the Automated Imaging Association – under IFR sponsorship, and will take place simultaneously with The International Robots & Vision Show.

A feature of the 28th ISR is a series of 'clinics' in which users and suppliers will discuss their experiences in implementing practical automation applications. Clinics are planned in diverse application areas including arc welding, spot welding, robot vision, colour vision, robot simulation, sensor-enhanced robots and robot assembly. Tutorial sessions are being arranged to provide basic information on a variety of application topics including

risk assessment of proposed robot installations, the fundamentals of lighting and optics for machine vision systems, and key issues for successful robotic system integration. A number of sessions during the symposium will be devoted to highlighting new component developments in such areas as robot arms, robot controllers, and machine vision processors and software.

Service robots will be the focus of one session, and speakers have been invited to present papers on robotics research projects that are nearing commercialisation.

The 'father of robotics' (and Robotica editorial board member) Mr Joseph Engelberger, who was born in 1925, will be specially honoured during the 28th ISR by a special celebratory dinner.

Further information about the 28th ISR can be obtained from the Robotic Industries Association, telephone +1 313 994 6088, fax +1 313 994 3338, e-mail [ria@robotics.org](mailto:ria@robotics.org).

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The IFR congratulates Joseph Engelberger who has been selected as one of four laureates of the 1997 Japan Prize. This prize, which will be conferred in April, is awarded to people, regardless of nationality, whose original and outstanding achievements in science and technology are recognised as having advanced the frontiers of knowledge and served the cause of peace and prosperity for mankind.