UK Policy & Investment in Robotics

Mike Wilson – Chairman of BARA

(Chris Buxton CEO of PPMA Group / BARA on behalf of Mike Wilson!)
Government Support

- Better understanding of the importance of robotics
- New initiatives with significant investment

- EPSRC
  - Centre for Intelligent Automation

- BIS
  - Automating Manufacturing Programme
Centre for Intelligent Automation

- Led by Loughborough & Cranfield Universities
- Funded by EPSRC (£4.8M)
- Industry partners (£3.34M)
  - Rolls-Royce, Airbus, Ford
  - Manufacturing Technology Centre

- Development of automated manufacturing processes which have previously been too difficult
- Improve the effectiveness of UK manufacturing:
  - Automotive
  - Aerospace
  - & Supply chains
The result could be a radical improvement in the effectiveness of manufacturing operations in the automotive and aerospace industries and on a broad range of companies in UK manufacturing supply chains.

Key Research Challenges
- Capturing and understanding high tech human skills
- Use skills information to determine appropriate human-automation solution
- Intelligent and adaptive automation systems
- Virtual commission and deployment of automation solutions

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Robot Density in Non-automotive Sectors
(Number of robots per 10,000 employees)

Germany: 127
Sweden: 114
Italy: 97
Spain: 45
France: 38
UK: 25

IFR World Robotics report - 2010
Automation Study

- Funded by:
  - BIS
  - BARA members

- Identified weaknesses:
  - Lack of awareness
  - Lack of expertise to concept/develop solutions
  - Perceived financial risk
  - Lack of skills

- Resulting in Government commitment
Automating Manufacturing Programme

Business Minister - Mark Prisk:

“I am delighted to announce that we will be contributing £600,000 for a two year automation and robotics programme.”
Automating Manufacturing Programme

- **Awareness**
  - Benefits
  - Competition
  - Available solutions
  - Brochure
  - Roadshows
  - Educational events
  - Web site

- **Support**
  - Identify opportunities
  - Implementation
  - Intervention Programme
Automating Manufacturing Programme

Intervention Programme

- Independent, impartial experts to assist UK manufacturing
- Commencing 1 Sept ‘11

Audits
  - Identify opportunities for automation
  - 100% funded

Interventions
  - Expertise to assist development of projects
  - Concept development, specifications, supplier selection
  - 50% funded (up to 20 days)