

Shaping German Robotics Together

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Germany needs a strong, transparent, and unifying professional society for robotics. Together with its members, I want to develop the DGR into a collective voice for the entire robotics community – scientifically grounded, internationally visible, and engaged in constructive dialogue with relevant stakeholders across academia, policymaking, industry, education, and the wider public.

My program for the DGR

1. A collective voice for robotics

The DGR should bring together expertise across disciplines, institutions, and application areas while making the diversity of perspectives within robotics visible. On this basis, the DGR should develop evidence-based position papers, recommendations, and contributions on research funding, standards, and socially relevant issues, and represent the interests of its members and the wider robotics community in dialogue with the DFG, policymakers, and the public. Collective positions should be developed transparently, through participatory processes and in accordance with scientific standards.

2. Building lasting connections between academia, industry, and the next generation of researchers

Technical areas (“Fachbereiche”), events, and digital services should facilitate cross-institutional exchange and create tangible value for DGR members, for example, through professional networking, mentoring, targeted support for young talents, lifelong learning, and knowledge transfer. It is particularly important to me that early-career researchers are given opportunities to assume responsibility, gain visibility, and become part of a strong national network at an early stage.

3. Strengthening scientific exchange and international visibility

Strong technical areas (“Fachbereiche”) should take the lead in advancing scientific topics independently, identify emerging developments early, and foster interdisciplinary exchange. Researchers from universities, universities of applied sciences, non-university research institutions, and industry should be involved on an equal footing. At the same time, the DGR should further increase the international visibility of German robotics, expand cooperation with related professional societies, and actively contribute to the dialogue on norms, standards, safety, and societal responsibility.

4. Building a member-focused, transparent, and sustainable organization

The DGR’s activities and services should be guided by the actual needs of its individual and corporate members. Transparent decision-making, clear responsibilities, and sound financial management provide the foundation for attractive long-term services and sustainable growth.

Cooperation between DGR and RIG

- The DGR and RIG operate under distinct mandates and decision-making structures: the DGR as an independent professional society open to the entire community, and RIG as an institutional research, infrastructure, and implementation platform involving established partners and funded initiatives. The DGR’s strategic and thematic priorities are determined exclusively by its members and the governing bodies defined in its statutes.
- On topics of shared interest, the two organizations should coordinate at an early stage, leverage synergies, and avoid duplicate structures. Cooperation should be transparent and create tangible added value for the robotics community. Existing responsibilities and the independent development of both organizations will be maintained.

My understanding of the role of chair

I see the role of Chair as one of moderation and facilitation, bringing people together and serving our shared mission. I wish to bring together different perspectives and, together with the Executive Board, the Presidium, the specialist departments, and the members, set clear priorities. Decisions should be transparent, based on clear lines of responsibility, and built on the diversity of the community as a strength. My aim is a DGR that earns trust through substance, openness, reliability, and tangible benefits, thereby strengthening the entire robotics community in Germany. I would like to take responsibility as Chair and help shape this development together with the community.