

My Candidacy for the Presidency of the German Robotics Society

Shaping Robotics in Germany Together – Scientifically Excellent, Interdisciplinary, and Relevant to Society

Robotics is entering a decisive phase. Advances in artificial intelligence, humanoid robotics, manipulation, autonomy, and human-robot interaction are opening up enormous opportunities for science, industry, and society. At the same time, they are creating new technical, ethical, and societal challenges. In particular, Germany and Europe are endangered to fall behind, risk not being able to keep up with the rapid developments in China and the US.

I would like to develop the German Robotics Society (DGR) into a sustained, strong, shared voice for robotics in Germany – open to academia, industry, education, and society, and with a clear international perspective. I want to provide a strong voice for German roboticists in research funding institutions, politics, industry, and society to expand Germany's role as a world-leading robotics hub.

My Five Priorities

1. A Strong Voice for Robotics

The DGR should make the expertise of its members visible and effective in societal and political debates. Scientifically grounded statements, recommendations, and contributions to norms and standards should establish the DGR as a recognized point of contact for policymakers, industry, and the public.

2. Scientific Excellence and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Robotics brings together many disciplines, including computer science, artificial intelligence, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, mathematics, neuroscience, and many others. The DGR should actively reach out to these communities and promote new forms of scientific exchange, joint events, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

3. Inspiring and Supporting the Next Generation of Roboticists

The future of robotics depends critically on excellent young scientists, engineers, and researchers. The DGR should make support for the next generation a visible core mission – through awards, mentoring, workshops, competitions, and better networking across institutions and career stages.

4. Building Bridges Between Research and Application

Germany has outstanding robotics research as well as a strong industrial base. The DGR can provide a unique platform for bringing together academia, start-ups, established companies, and users more closely. The goal is to accelerate and strengthen the transfer of scientific knowledge into innovative applications.

5. An Open and Internationally Visible Robotics Community

The DGR should be a place where different disciplines, generations, institutions, and perspectives come together. At the same time, we should strengthen the international connections of German robotics and highlight Germany as a leading location for robotics research and innovation.

My Goal

I want a DGR that **connects its members, promotes scientific excellence, attracts and supports the next generation, enables innovation, fosters collaboration with industry and RIG, consults scientific organizations and politicians, and provides guidance to society.**

Together with the Board and, above all, the members, I would like to develop and implement a clear strategic agenda.

The DGR should not merely observe the development of robotics—it should actively shape it.

Wolfram Burgard

Candidate for President of the German Robotics Society