

## IFR News

### Foresight Manufacturing Panel

In 1993 the British Government announced the Technology Foresight initiative. The aim of Foresight is to secure sustained competitive advantage and enhanced quality of life in the UK. Sixteen panels spearhead the programme, each representing an important sector of the UK economy. The panels comprise representatives from business, the science base and government.

The Manufacturing, Production and Business Processes panel is specifically targeted at manufacturing industry and is currently chaired by Nick Scheele, Chairman of Jaguar. As well as directors of some more significant UK companies the panel also includes senior figures from the CBI, EEF major trade associations and academe. Mike Wilson, as president of the BRA, was invited to join the panel in November 1997.

Mike is currently chairing a sub-group focused on automation. The aim of this sub-group is to find methods to encourage companies to consider the benefits of investment in capital equipment and, in particular, the potential benefits of automation. Both the OST and DTI are supporting this activity.

(British Robot Association)

### '99 ICAR and 30th ISR

The '99 International Conference on Advanced Robotics (ICAR) and the 30th International Symposium on Robotics (ISR) will be held between October 25 and 29, 1999 under the sponsorship of the Robotics Society of Japan and the Japan Robot Association. Concurrently, the '99 International Robotic Exhibition will be held during the "Robot Week".

Those interested in making presentations or participating in the events are kindly asked to notify the joint conference secretariat at fax: +81-3-3578 1404.

### ISR 2000 – Building Alliances for Success

The ISR 2000 will be held in Montreal, during the week of May 14 in conjunction with the PRECARN and IRIS annual conference and the AI/GI/VI 2000 conferences.

The 10th PRECARN and IRIS conference gathers annually some 400 representatives from Canadian industry, academics and government. The conference programme includes workshops, presentations and leading edge demonstrations.

AI/GI/VI 2000 brings together three Canadian research conferences, presenting the latest results in artificial intelligence, computer graphics and computer vision.

Visit the ISR 2000 web site for further information <http://www.precarn.ca/isr2000.htm>

### Call for Papers – Eurobot '99

The third European workshop on advanced mobile robots (EUROBOT '99) will be held from September 6–8 in Zurich, Switzerland. The workshop intends to be a platform for researchers to present and share new research and development results, techniques and problems.

The workshop is organised by Institute of Robotics, ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

Further information can be obtained from <http://www.eurobot99.ethz.ch/>

### Nomination Being Accepted for Joseph F. Engelberger Awards

The Robotic Industries Association (RIA) is accepting nominations for the prestigious Joseph F. Engelberger Robotics Awards. The awards recognize outstanding individuals from all over the world for achievements in the following four areas: technology development, application, education and leadership. Since its inception in 1977, awards have been presented to 68 international robotics leaders from 13 countries.

The 1999 awards will be presented at the 30th International Symposium on Robotics in Tokyo, Japan on October 25–29. Each award winner receives a \$2,000 honorarium and a commemorative medallion.

The deadline to submit nominations for the 1999 Joseph F. Engelberger Robotics Awards is August 15, 1999.

For details on the award, contact RIA headquarters at 734/994-6088, [ria@robotics.org](mailto:ria@robotics.org) or on the Internet at [www.robotics.org](http://www.robotics.org).