



Pittsburgh
Robotics
Network



June PRN Newsletter

"Any time you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don't take it, then you are wasting your time on Earth." - Roberto Clemente

Over the past few weeks, we were again reminded that technology is only as powerful as the opportunities it provides for all humans. The Pittsburgh Robotics Network is committed to enabling opportunities for all and promoting diversity in robotics. As a membership-based consortium, we will work to ensure that our activities represent the entire Pittsburgh robotics ecosystem, leverage our influence to champion for diversity and inclusion, and amplify black and minority voices.

This momentum and commitment to equality must continue and remain a part of our community's everyday thinking. We all have a responsibility to listen, take action, and put in the work to effect meaningful, lasting change. Both our industry and our region are strongest when everyone is welcomed and empowered.



The Pittsburgh Robotics Community Responds to COVID-19

At the beginning of June, we authored a piece exploring how the Pittsburgh robotics ecosystem responded to COVID-19 challenges. From rapidly pivoting to produce PPE to launching the first autonomous disinfecting in a U.S. airport, PRN member organization leveraged the city's expertise and collaborative spirit to catalyze needed solutions.

Read the Full Story



Builds & Banter: July 8

PRN sponsor Fictiv recently hosted a webinar on "How to Build Physical Products in the Virtual New World." There was so much engagement and conversation that they have turned to the PRN community to continue the conversation and address remaining questions around remote engineering challenges!

This workshop will be part of a new virtual event series, called "Builds & Banter" developed by Fictiv for the engineering community. In the first session on July 8, Fictiv Director of Product Management, Hiro Shimozato, will be joined by Wes Reid and John Cameron from IAM Robotics to discuss questions from the community. Hiro, Wes, and John will look at what the community is doing and answer questions in an interactive session. Then participants will connect with other engineers within and beyond the Pittsburgh community in breakout sessions to discuss challenges, questions, and best practices.

Register Here



Gripper Challenge from GM and MassRobotics

General Motors, partnered with MassRobotics, is holding a Gripper Challenge. Startups, academia and integrators are invited to participate in this challenge to develop a proof of concept universal end effector that is capable of grasping and holding a large variety of sheet metal components for purposes of precise robotic assembly. The end effector must be capable of holding the parts firmly enough to enable precise part alignment and subsequent processing (i.e. resistance spot welding). Key performance metrics for concept selection include: geometric flexibility, holding force, cycle time, reliability, and simplicity.

[Applications are due on July 10. Learn more here.](#)



2020 RBR Robotics Innovation Award Winners

The Pittsburgh robotics ecosystem was well-represented in the 2020 RBR50 Robotics Innovation Awards with the following Pittsburgh companies being recognized: Agility Robotics, ARM Institute, and Bossa Nova Robotics!

[Read more](#)



June Headlines Round-up

Access our round-up of notable Pittsburgh headlines, PRN Member news, select industry updates, and more! Mentioned this month: Astrobotics, Agility Robotics, ARM Institute, Bossa Nova Robotics, Carnegie Mellon University, Argo AI, IAM Robotics, Fifth Season, and the University of Pittsburgh.

[Read more](#)



NASA Awards Astrobotic \$200M

NASA awarded Astrobotic with nearly \$200 million on Thursday for a key lunar mission, which will hunt for deposits of frozen water the moon. "The VIPER rover and the commercial partnership that will deliver

it to the Moon are a prime example of how the scientific community and U.S. industry are making NASA's lunar exploration vision a reality." -Jim Bridenstine, NASA Administrator

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[Learn more here.](#)



SelectUSA Virtual Tour Event PITTSBURGH: Where NEXT is NOW for Robotics, AI, + More

Virtually visit Pittsburgh on July 9 as SelectUSA hosts a virtual event exploring Pittsburgh's leadership in robotics. Hear from industry experts, including Joel Reed, PRN Executive Director, and representatives from the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Bosch Research and Development Technology Center.

[Learn more and register here.](#)



Work in Pittsburgh

In conjunction with our June webinar and in partnership with InnovatePGH, the PRN ran an advertising campaign highlighting open jobs with PRN Member companies. On our landing page, visitors can use the company logos to visit that company's job board and access recent Pittsburgh hiring highlights.

[Learn more here.](#)



PRN Sponsor Highlight

Thank you for Aerotek for being our supporting sponsor for our recent webinar on remote work.

About Aerotek:

Over the past three decades we've built an unrivaled culture and our unique, people-focused approach yields competitive advantage for our clients and rewarding careers for our contractors. Today we serve virtually every major industry, and we've placed exceptional people in hundreds of thousands of roles and positions. Everything we do is grounded in our guiding principles to build and nurture quality relationships that allow us to place quality people in quality jobs. [Learn more.](#)



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