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Hans-Jörg Bullinger is Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Prof. e.h. mult. Dr. h. c. mult., President of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Corporate Management and Research. He obtained MSc and PhD in Manufacturing at University of Stuttgart and joined the Stuttgart Fraunhofer-Institute of Production Technology and Automation, and became a full-time lecturer at the University of Stuttgart. He served there as Chairman of the University, Head of the Institute for Human Factors and Technology Management (IAI) and of Fraunhofer-Institute for Industrial Engineering (IAO). In 2002 he became the President of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Among his honors are the Kienzel-Medal, the Gold Ring-of-Honour from the German Society of Engineers (VDI), the Distinguished Foreign Colleague Award from the Human Factor Society, the Arthur Burchhardt Award, Honorary Doctorates (DHC) from the Universities of Novi Sad and Timisoara. He has also received the Cross of Order of Merit and the Officer’s Cross of Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Great Cross of the Order of Merit from the Federal President of Germany. Dr. Bullinger is a member of the German Chancellor’s “Council on Innovation and Economic Growth”.

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Rick J. Echevarria is Vice President of the Sales and Marketing Group and General Manager of the Enterprise Solution Sales division at Intel Corporation. Before assuming his current position, Rick spent seven years leading Intel’s Solution Services, Intel’s worldwide professional services organization. Earlier, he spent two years as Director of Product Marketing for Intel’s Communication Products Group and as Director of Internet Marketing for the Enterprise Server Group. Before joining Intel in 1994, Rick was a software developer for IBM Corporation in Austin, TX. Rick holds a BS degree in industrial engineering from Purdue University and an MS degree in computer systems management from Union College.

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Yael Edan is a Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management. She holds a BSc in Computer Engineering and MSc in Agricultural Engineering, both from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and a PhD in Engineering from Purdue University. Her research is robotic and sensor performance analysis, systems engineering of robotic systems; sensor fusion, multi-robot and telerobotics control methodologies, and human-robot collaboration methods with major contributions in intelligent automation systems in agriculture.

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Yukio Hasegawa is Professor Emeritus of the System Science Institute at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan. He has been enjoying construction robotics research since 1983 as Director of Waseda Construction Robot Research Project (WASCOR) which has impacted automation in construction and in other fields of automation. He received the prestigious first Engelberger Award in 1977 from the American Robot Association for his distinguished pioneering work in robotics and in Robot Ergonomics since the infancy of Japanese robotics. Among his numerous international contributions to robotics and automation, Professor Hasegawa assisted, as a visiting professor, to build the Robotics Institute at EPFL (Ecole Polytechnic Federal de Lausanne) in Switzerland.
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Steve Holland is a Research Fellow at General Motors R&D, where he pioneered early applications of robotics, vision and computer-based manufacturing. Later, he led GM’s robotics development group and then the robotics and welding support operations for GM North American plants. He served as Director of GM’s global manufacturing systems research. He is a Fellow of IEEE and received the Joseph F. Engelberger Award for his contributions to robotics. Mr. Holland has a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from GMI and a Master in Computer Science from Stanford.

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Aditya Mathur received his PhD in 1977 from BITS, Pilani, India in Electrical Engineering. Until 1985 he was on the faculty at BITS where he spearheaded the formation of the first degree granting Computer Science department in India. In 1985 he moved briefly to Georgia Tech before joining Purdue University in 1987. Aditya is currently a Professor and Head in the Department of Computer Science where his research is primarily in the area of software engineering. He has made significant contributions in software testing and software process control and has authored three textbooks in the areas of programming, microprocessor architecture, and software testing.

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Kazuo Tanie (△)

Professor Kazuo Tanie (1946–2007), received BE, MS, Dr. eng. in Mechanical Engineering from Waseda University. In 1971, he joined the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory (AIST-MITI), was Director of the Robotics Department and of the Intelligent Systems Institute of the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, where he led a large humanoid robotics program.

In addition, he held several academic positions in Japan, USA, and Italy. His research interests included tactile sensors, dexterous manipulation, force and compliance control for robotic arms and hands, virtual reality and telerobotics, human-robot coexisting systems, power assist systems and humanoids. Professor Tanie was active in IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, served as its president (2004–2005), and led several international conferences. One of the prominent pioneers of robotics in Japan, his leadership and skills led to major automation initiatives, including various walking robots, dexterous hands, seeing-eye robot (MEL Dog), rehabilitative and humanoid robotics, and network-based humanoid telerobotics.

Tibor Vámos

Tibor Vámos graduated from the Budapest Technical University in 1949. Since 1986 he is Chairman of the Board, Computer and Automation Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. He was President of IFAC 1981–1984 and is a Fellow of the IEEE, ECCAI, IFAC. Professor Vamos is Honorary President of the John v. Neumann Society and won the State Prize of Hungary in 1983, the Chorafas Prize in 1994, the Széchenyi Prize of Hungary in 2008 and was elected “The educational scientist of the year” in 2005. His main fields of interest cover large-scale systems in process control, robot vision, pattern recognition, knowledge-based systems, and epistemic problems. He is author and co-author of several books and about 160 papers.

François B. Vernadat

François Vernadat received the PhD in Electrical Engineering and Automatic Control from University of Clermont, France, in 1981. He has been a research officer at the National Research Council of Canada in the 1980s and at the Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique in France in the 1990s. He joined the University of Metz in 1995 as a full professor and founded the LGIPM research laboratory. His research interests include enterprise modeling, enterprise architectures, enterprise integration and interoperability. He is a member of IEEE and ACM and has been vice-chairman of several technical committees of IFAC. He has over 250 scientific papers in international journals and conferences.

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Birgit Vogel-Heuser graduated in Electrical Engineering and obtained her PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the RWTH Aachen in 1991. She worked nearly ten years in industrial automation for machine and plant manufacturing industry. After holding the Chair of Automation at the University of Hagen and the Chair of Automation/Process Control Engineering she is now head of the Chair of Embedded Systems at the University of Kassel. Her research work is focussed on improvement of efficiency in automation engineering for hybrid process and heterogeneous distributed embedded systems.
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