

RobotCup2013: 1000 Robots Made By Visitors Will Cheer Together!

EINDHOVEN (NL), MAY 23, 2013.

During the 2013 edition of the international *RoboCup* competition, hosted in Eindhoven (NL) visitors to the event can build and program their own robot in a one hour workshop. The workshop is developed to involve youngsters in the event and robotics technology. These robots (*FanBots*) will be placed on a stand next to the competition area to cheer and encourage the other robots in the competition. The goal is to build more than 1000 individual robots over a 5 day period making this event probably one of the largest gathering of robots ever.

The FanBots are each equipped with a microcontroller, servo actuator and lights. They can communicate with each other and they can be controlled via the Internet or using a phone or tablet.

Microcontrollers are used in almost every electric appliance however only a few people have any notice of that. This workshop will introduce kids (and parents) to this technology and make it accessible to them. Building and programming your own robot and adding it to a supporters legion is fun and instructive. After the event, the robots can be taken home and used for further experimentation. All designs and software are made available as open source on the Internet, free of charge.

The project was made possible by the support of various companies. NXP provided the microcontroller that forms the "brains" of the robot. Eurocircuits provided the printed circuit board of its brain and AME assembled the components on the circuit boards. Prodrive provided various components. Nobleo provided development resources and KekkeTek was responsible for the concept, design and realization



Picture of the *FanBots*

For more contact on the FanBot project, Contact Marieke Peelen: marieke.peelen@kekketek.nl

Robocup (www.robocup.org) "RoboCup is an international scientific initiative with the goal to advance the state of the art of intelligent robots"

KekkeTek (www.kekketek.nl) "Provides services for technical knowledge transfer in industry and education: writing documentation, developing educational programs and workshops"

AME (www.ame.nu) "Provides electronics development and manufacturing services for various markets"

Eurocircuits (www.eurocircuits.com) provides PCB manufacturing services. "Cost-cutting online prototype & small batch PCB services"

NXP (www.nxp.com) "NXP Semiconductors N.V. (NASDAQ: NXPI) provides High Performance Mixed Signal and Standard Product solutions that leverage its leading RF, Analog, Power Management, Interface, Security and Digital Processing expertise "

Prodrive (www.prodrive.nl) "Prodrive delivers most competitive solutions in electronics design, manufacturing and added value services for OEM's and ODM's operating in industrial, professional and consumer markets"

Nobleo (www.nobleo.nl) "Nobleo is a technical consultancy firm, with a great deal of experience