



R & D Journal of the South African Institution of Mechanical Engineering

Dear Reader

This journal invited authors to submit two themed papers under the guest editorship of Dr Willie Smit. The purpose of the papers is to showcase robotics research in South Africa. While we tried to be as inclusive as possible, we quickly realised that the activity is larger than expected and we were unable to include all the work done in South Africa.

The first paper is an overview of a wide section of the robotics research activities in South Africa. Dr Smit collated the work of 17 researchers from seven institutes and even more research groups, showing how South African institutions are preparing technology and highly skilled engineers for Industry 4.0.

The second paper showcases one very close international collaboration and deals with open source technology readily available for South African researchers and industry alike.

The two papers are:

E. Boje, R.L. Christopher, J. Fernandes, J.H. Hepworth, R.B. Kuriakose, K. Kruger, T. Lorimer, N. Luwes, H.D. Mouton, A. Patel, B. Rosman, W.J. Smit, R. Stopforth, B. van Eden, T. van Niekerk, H. Vermaak, D. Withey. A Review of Robotics Research in South Africa. *R&D Journal*, 35:75-97, 2019.

N Limpert, P Wiesen, A Ferrein, S Kallweit, S Schiffer. The ROSIN Project and its Outreach to South Africa. *R&D Journal*, 35:98-104, 2019.

Yours truly,

Prof Kristiaan Schreve (Editor)