

News from the international federation of robotics for robotica

1. During the summer the International Federation of Robotics has launched its home page on Internet with the address <http://www.ifr.org>. In this first version of the site you can find short information regarding events, statistics etc. and also how to order IFR publications. You can find addresses and links to the IFR member associations. During the coming year the site will be further developed.

2. The 1997 edition of World Industrial Robots will be published in October of this year. It is based on statistical input from the IFR members and covers robot statistics from 1983 to 1996 and forecast to 2000. World Industrial Robots is the result of the cooperation between IFR and the Economic Commission for Europe, a UN agency. The special feature of this edition concentrates on robotics in packaging and the food and pharmaceutical industries. Four articles deal with the subjects from different angles.

3. The third ACRA – Asian Conference on Robotics and its Application will be held from October 29 to 30 1997 in Tokyo. The conference is organised by the Robotics Society of Japan and the Japan Robot

Association (JARA) and endorsed by IFR as an IFR regional conference.

The ACRA is jointly sponsored by People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and Japan. The first conference was held in Hong Kong in 1991 and the second in Beijing, China in 1994.

The objective is to contribute to robotics in Asia and international R&D/industrial cooperation, by offering an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas regarding the possibility of robotics and its application in a wide range of areas including advanced robotics.

4. The 29th International Symposium on Robotics, will be held in Birmingham, UK from April 27 through 30, 1998 alongside the Automation & Robotics 98 exhibition. The world's leading annual robotics symposium, the 29th ISR will combine a focus on leading-edge R&D work in the robotics and automation field with practical industry-based sessions.

The presentations at ISR 1998 will be run in parallel sessions over four days comprising the Advanced Robotics: Beyond 2000 symposium and a number of robot application sessions and workshops.

(Submitted by Kerstin Teglöf Delgado, IFR Secretariat)