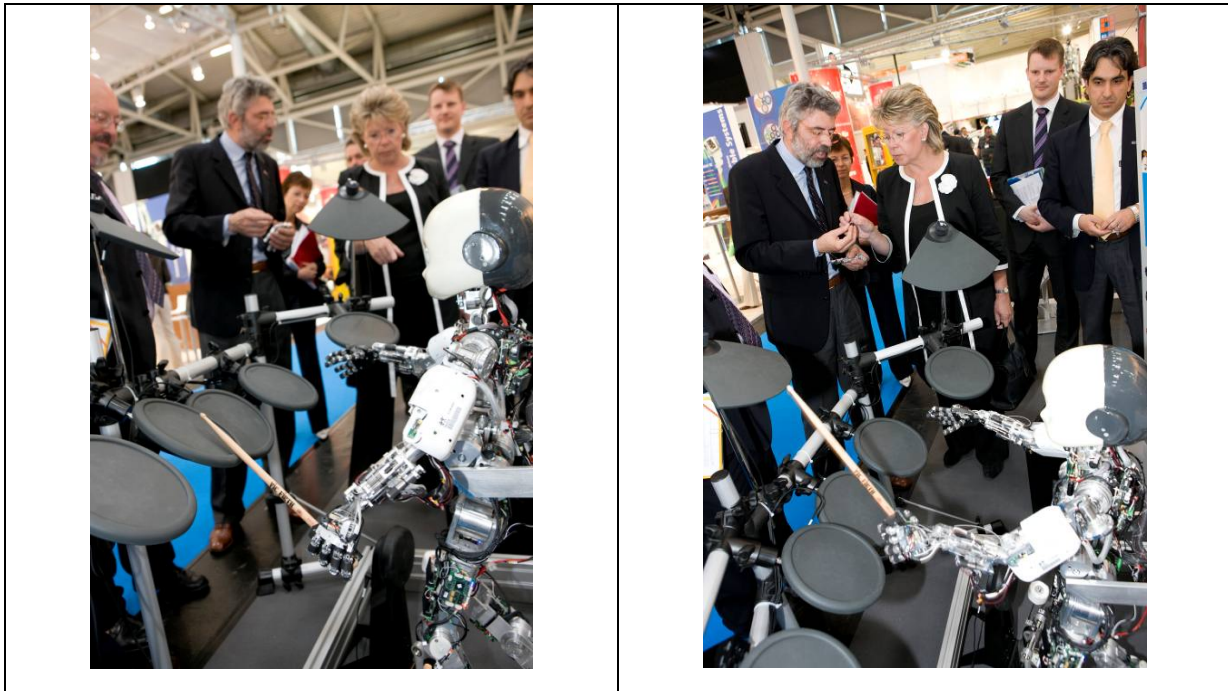


NA 047-2

Dissemination of embodied cognition results at the Automatica 2008

iCub at AUTOMATICA 2008, the 3rd International Trade Fair for Automation – Assembly - Robotics – Vision.

The RobotCub Consortium has participated to Automatica 2008 (<http://www.automatica-muenchen.de/>) representing a certain number of EU-funded projects using or having links with the iCub platform, such as ITALK, CHRIS, and POETICON. We have been encouraged by the EU Commission to show the iCub to a broader audience including industries, media and the general public as the iCub is considered a successful example of EU-funded research on humanoid robotics and artificial cognitive systems. The iCub has been demonstrated in a challenging demo while playing drums or in sequences of movements showing the available degrees of freedom and sensory capabilities. These demonstrations are the outcome of part of the research activities on motion control which were carried out by the RobotCub Consortium during 2008.



The iCub drumming demonstration

The iCub stand received the visit of Ms. Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media. We had the occasion to show the robot live to Ms. Reding and explain about other projects where the iCub will be engaged in interaction with humans.



Ms. Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media and Prof. Giulio Sandini, RobotCub coordinator

Finally, we report a citation from an official press release of the European Community (<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/910&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>) announcing a boost on European robotics research:

"At the occasion of AUTOMATICA 2008, one of the leading international Trade fairs in robotics and automation held this year in Munich/Germany, the European Commission has announced a policy to boost European robotics. The European Union will double its investments between 2007 and 2010 with almost € 400 million to support European robotics research. This ambitious programme aims to forge stronger links between academia and industry, and plans to fund a widespread experimentation by academic researchers and industry. The European Commission also calls on the industry to intensify its efforts in producing critical components in Europe, such as gears, in order to face competition from Asia and avoid strategic dependencies on other regions of the world."