LeMano at Cybathlon 2016

This week, the world’s first Cybathlon will take place in Zurich, Switzerland and today we present to you the second of the NCCR Robotics teams to be taking part in the competition, Le Mano. The Cybathlon is the brainchild of NCCR Robotics co-director and ETH Zurich professor Robert Riener, and is designed to facilitate discussion between academics, industry and end users of assistive aids, to promote the position of people with disabilities within society and to push development of assistive technology towards solutions that are suitable for use all-day, every day.

In our privileged position as presenting sponsor we are also proud to have NCCR Robotics represented by three teams: In the Powered Arm Prosthesis Race, by the team LeMano; in the Brain Computer Interface (BCI) race, by the team EPFL Brain Tweakers; and in the Powered Exoskeleton Race by the team Varileg.

Le Mano is a team from Micera Lab (TNE) EPFL, which recently pioneered natural feeling restoration in people with upper limb amputations through functioning artificial arms – in fact you may have read about them back in 2014 when they first published the results of their Lifehand2 bionic hand.

Le Mano are currently expanding their technology and testing it with new patients. For the Cybathlon they have developed new control algorithms in order to enable more accurate and easier control of the prosthesis, to help with the precise and adaptive object manipulation required for the Cybathlon tasks, e.g. hanging up washing on a clothes line. Their pilot is called Almerina, a proud wife and mother who wants to help society by giving her time to testing of innovative technologies, which she hopes will be an everyday reality in the future. Team is leaded by Stanisa Raspopovic, and composed by Giacomo Valle, Ivo Strauss and Francesco Petrini.

The goal of Le Mano is to show that a non-athlete can participate and complete tasks in such a competition. This would really show that their technology is not only for Super Heroes, but for all persons with disabilities.

Attend the Cybathlon in person or watch along live on the Cybathlon website to cheer along for Le Mano.
The second Swiss Robotics Industry Day organised by NCCR Robotics on 2nd November 2016 at the Swiss Tech Convention Center, Lausanne, will showcase cutting edge robotics research and SMEs from the 20 professorships in NCCR Robotics and the Swiss Robotics ecosystem. The Day is a vital opportunity for industry in fields that use robotics to network with potential partners, talents and collaborators as well as offering privileged access to new and emerging technologies. Find out more and request an invitation at swissroboticsindustry.ch

For Further Information please refer to:

Linda Seward, Communication Officer at NCCR Robotics: linda.seward@epfl.ch, +41 (0) 21 693 73 16

NCCR Robotics

The Swiss National Center of Competence in Robotics (NCCR Robotics) is a federally funded programme bringing together robotics laboratories from EPFL, ETH Zurich, University of Zurich and IDSIA to work on wearable, rescue and educational robots.

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CONTACT DETAILS

NCCR Robotics Director
Prof. Dario Floreano
Publisher
NCCR Robotics
Management Team
Editor
Linda Seward
Web Editing
Mayra Lirot
Design
Alternative
Communication SA

NCCR Robotics
Office MED 11626, Station 9,
EPFL CH-1015 Lausanne
Switzerland
+41 21 693 69 39
nccr-robotics@epfl.ch / nccr-robotics.ch