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Press Release

Establishing an international robotics key player

German United Robotics Group acquires SoftBank Robotics Europe in Paris

- ▶ United Robotics Group GmbH
- ▶ SoftBank Robotics Group Corp.
- ▶ SoftBank Robotics Europe SAS

Bochum / Paris / Tokyo, April 2022 – On 9th of April 2022 United Robotics Group (URG), a subsidiary of the RAG-Stiftung in Essen, has reached an agreement with SoftBank Robotics Group Corp. (SBRG) to acquire their French subsidiary SoftBank Robotics Europe SAS (SBRE). SBRG will acquire a minority stake in URG and the two companies will continue to cooperate in the global marketing of various robots. By acquiring SBRE, URG will become one of the leading service robotics companies in Europe.

With this acquisition, URG is following its strategy of securing a leading position in the robotics market through organic growth and acquisitions. The extensive know-how and experience of SBRE's highly qualified employees not only ideally complement URG's broad product range, but the combined forces will above all accelerate research and development and thus further strengthen the company's innovative power.

Headquartered in Paris, France, SBRE is a leader in humanoid robotics and the developer and manufacturer of the world-renowned Pepper and NAO robots. URG has been the master distributor in the European market since October 2021, responsible for sales, service and maintenance of Pepper and NAO. URG companies such as Humanizing Technologies and ENTRANCE Robotics have already been partners of SBRE since 2017.

URG, SBRG and SBRE will hold a strong partnership to develop and distribute various robots including Pepper and will continue to provide services together to customers around the world.

SBRE will revert to its former name of Aldebaran, a pioneer in interaction robotics and academics market. General Manager of SBRE, Xavier Lacherade, will continue to lead the company. The transaction is subject to merger clearance and is expected to close in the second quarter of 2022.

“We are pleased to welcome SBRE with more than 180 exceptionally motivated robotics specialists,” said Thomas Hähn, founder and CEO of United Robotics Group. “This is an important step for us on the way to further internationalizing our company. The future Aldebaran with their strong reputation in the market will help us to further expand our great potential in combining interaction robotics with our knowledge in collaborative industrial robotics.”

Fumihide Tomizawa, President & CEO, SoftBank Robotics Group, said: “We are strengthening our strategic partnerships with various robotics leader companies around the world. We are very pleased to form a strong partnership with a successful company, URG. We will leverage this great relationship to develop and market Pepper and a variety of other robots.”

Xavier Lacherade, General Manager of SoftBank Robotics Europe, said: “We know URG as a strategic partner in sales, services and software development. I am very excited about the combination of the two companies into one large network. I am firmly convinced that the short management paths, which are also characterized by the German-French friendship, will inspire the work on both sides of the Rhine and lead us to new successes in the near future.”

About United Robotics Group

The United Robotics Group is a subsidiary of RSBG SE, a wholly owned investment entity of the RAG-Stiftung, which primarily focuses on technology driven engineering companies. With a long-term oriented buy and build strategy, RSBG SE is a valuable partner for successful mid-sized companies such as the United Robotics Group.

The United Robotics Group (URG), headquartered in Bochum, Germany, unites young service robotics companies into a unique ecosystem. URG bundles hardware and software expertise under one roof, develops customized service robotics solutions with its partners and customers to meet challenges in the medical, care, hospitality and education sectors, and offers Robot as a Service. Customer needs, product quality, data protection and sustainability are the drivers of development at URG. For more information: www.unitedrobotics.group

About SoftBank Robotics Europe

Leader in humanoid robotics, SoftBank Robotics Europe is headquartered in Paris and regroups about 180 employees. Creator of the robots NAO and Pepper, used today in more than 70 countries worldwide, in various fields, such as retail, health-care, tourism and education, SoftBank Robotics Europe is a subsidiary of SoftBank Robotics Group Corp. For more information: www.softbankrobotics.com/emea

About SoftBank Robotics Group

SoftBank Robotics is driving technology forward by becoming a worldwide leader in robotics solutions. Rapidly expanding with offices in Tokyo, San Francisco, Boston, London, Paris, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Singapore, Sydney, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. SoftBank Robotics is constantly exploring and commercializing robotics solutions that help make people's lives easier, safer, more connected, and more extraordinary. SoftBank Robotics' robots are used in more than 70 countries worldwide and we offer innovative applications relevant in the fields of retail, tourism, healthcare, finance, education, facilities management, cleaning, warehouse, and logistics. For more information: www.softbankrobotics.com

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CV: Thomas Hähn

CEO United Robotics Group

April 2021 – ongoing

CEO RAG-Beteiligungsgesellschaft
Automation & Robotics Technologies GmbH

December 2020 – ongoing

Founder & CEO United Robotics Group

January 2017 – April 2021

CEO Hahn Group

June 1992

Founder Hahn Automation



Image included in press kit

Thomas Hähn founded the company “Hähn Engineering” in his garage in 1992. This later gave rise to HAHN Automation, which opened its first foreign location in the USA, only eight years after incorporation. In 2014, RSBG SE joined HAHN Automation as an investor, which already had 350 employees at seven locations. The HAHN Group was founded in 2017 and serves as a platform for the further development of the group’s companies. They retain their independence and benefit from the exchange and synergies, as well as the skills within the group. Today the HAHN Group employs approximately 1,700 people in 16 countries within its subsidiaries.

In 2021 together with RSBG SE, Thomas Hähn decided to establish the United Robotics Group as a future big player in the field of service robotics in addition to the HAHN Group as a specialist in factory automation.

CV: Xavier Lachérade

General Manager SoftBank Robotics Europe

April 2019 – ongoing

Chief Operating Officer SoftBank Robotics Europe (SBRE)

April 2018 – March 2019

Chief Technology Officer Hardware and Innovation SBRE

September 2014 – March 2018

Chief Technology Officer Hardware SBRE

January 2009 – September 2014

Manager Interventional Advance Mfg. Engineering, GE Healthcare



Image included in press kit

Xavier Lacherade has gained a strong background from his 18+ years in Health-care Industry at GE with a focus on both Manufacturing and Engineering positions. He has led many new product launch projects and been an integral member of the design, development and qualification process. Always eager to learn and improve, Xavier has his certified Six Sigma Green Belt and brings his expertise in all technical processes at SoftBank Robotics as Senior EVP, Chief Technology Officer, Hardware & Innovation.

In 2019 Xavier was appointed General Manager of SoftBank Robotics Europe where he is leading the shift to a world-class agile and robust organization to design and build the next generation platform in mobile and interaction robotics.

He is a graduate from French Mechanical engineering school, Institut français de mécanique avancée (Sigma Clermont) and holds patents in several X-Ray tube designs.

Who is the United Robotics Group?

The United Robotics Group (URG), headquartered in Bochum, Germany, unites young service robotics companies into a unique ecosystem. URG bundles hardware and software expertise under one roof, develops customized service robotics solutions with its partners and customers to meet challenges in the medical, care, hospitality and education sectors, and offers Robot as a Service. Customer needs, product quality, data protection and sustainability are the drivers of development at URG. For more information: www.unitedrobotics.group

Short Facts:

7 Companies

- ▶ Rethink Robotics GmbH
- ▶ Humanizing Technologies GmbH
- ▶ Entrance Robotics GmbH
- ▶ United Robotics Group Health & Food GmbH
- ▶ RobShare GmbH
- ▶ GEENIAL GmbH
- ▶ SoftBank Robotics Europe SAS

9 Locations

- ▶ Paris
- ▶ Bochum (Headquarter)
- ▶ Cologne
- ▶ Frankfurt
- ▶ Dortmund
- ▶ Stuhr
- ▶ Olpe
- ▶ Vienna
- ▶ Witten

Employees

- ▶ Around 300

Robots

- ▶ Sawyer
- ▶ Pepper
- ▶ NAO
- ▶ Solutions
- ▶ The Box
- ▶ uMobileLAB
- ▶ uMobileLOG

Software

- ▶ Intera
- ▶ RMS
- ▶ Plural
- ▶ Robot.Care

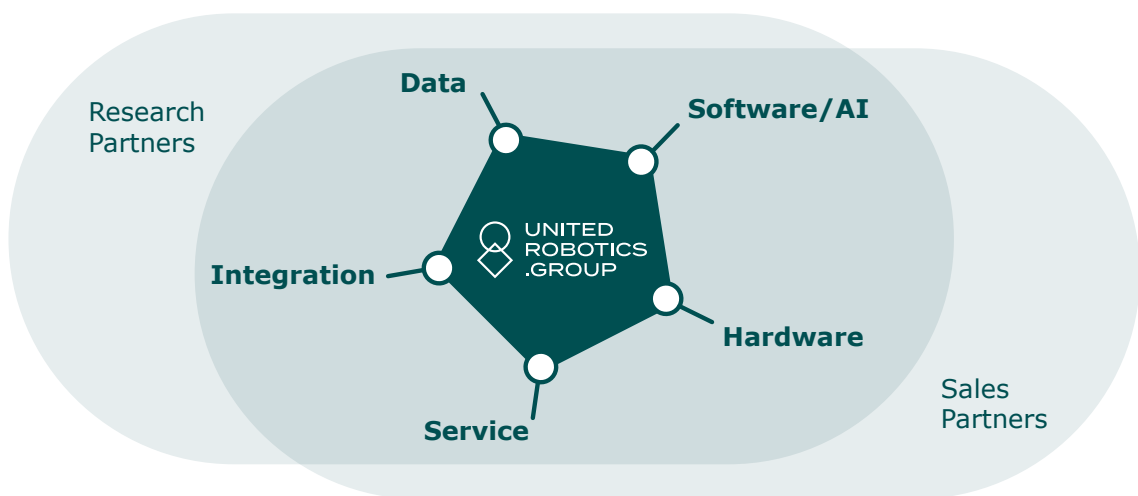
Golden Circle

We live for a future where humans and robots – hand in hand – serve society.

United in one group we understand ourselves as an empowered ecosystem of technology-inspired people, driven by a shared set of human values, always focusing on customer needs, product quality, data privacy and sustainability.

We provide a comprehensive range of intelligent services and progressive robotic solutions for public & professional environments.

What we offer



Who is the shareholder of United Robotics Group?

The shareholder of United Robotics Group is RSBG SE.

RSBG SE, based in Essen, is the industrial investment company of the RAG Foundation and is part of the capital investment of the RAG Foundation. It contributes directly to the financing of the eternal tasks of the German coal mining industry.

RSBG SE invests primarily in companies whose products and services are highly relevant to global changes in the areas of population development, urbanization, health-care, automation & robotics and new technologies. Against the backdrop of the corresponding world market trends, RSBG SE, together with its partners from the SME sector, focuses in particular on competencies in the areas of digitalization, Industry 4.0 and cloud computing.

As a strategic financial holding company, RSBG SE bundles its investments in currently five corporate groups, which are divided into the areas of Infrastructure, Information & Communication, Advanced Manufacturing, Automation & Robotics and Value Investment; RSBG SE also holds strategic minority interests.

With the acquisition of SoftBank Robotics Europe (SBRE), SBRG will acquire a minority stake in URG and the two companies will continue to cooperate in the global marketing of various robots.

SoftBank Robotics is driving technology forward by becoming a worldwide leader in robotics solutions. Rapidly expanding with offices in Tokyo, San Francisco, Boston, London, Paris, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Singapore, Sydney, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. SoftBank Robotics is constantly exploring and commercializing robotics solutions that help make people's lives easier, safer, more connected, and more extraordinary. SoftBank Robotics' robots are used in more than 70 countries worldwide and offer innovative applications relevant in the fields of retail, tourism, health-care, finance, education, facilities management, cleaning, warehouse, and logistics.

Who is the Automation & Robotics Division of RSBG SE?

The United Robotics Group, together with its sister company HAHN Group, forms the Automation & Robotics Division of RSBG SE. The HAHN Group unites a network of specialized companies for industrial automation and robotics solutions. The group employs approximately 1,600 people in 14 countries at its production and service locations worldwide. Renowned customers in the automotive, consumer goods, electronics and healthcare industries benefit from over 30 years of expertise. This expertise in the field of automation technology ensures that resources are used efficiently and robots, as well as digital technologies, are deployed in a targeted manner. The HAHN Group has been majority-owned by RSBE SE since 2015 and has successfully expanded and developed multidimensionally during this time.

Who is Softbank Robotics Europe?

Leader in humanoid robotics, SoftBank Robotics Europe is headquartered in Paris and regroups about 180 employees. Creator of the robots NAO and Pepper, used today in more than 70 countries worldwide, in various fields, such as retail, healthcare, tourism and education, SoftBank Robotics Europe is now part of United Robotics Group.

The Acquisition

The purpose of the acquisition is to provide URG with an expanded product portfolio (humanoid robots Pepper and Nao as well as the new development Plato) in the fast-growing field of service robotics and highly qualified resources (around 200 SBRE employees), in particular to accelerate the development times and the market launch of the planned service robots.

Images included in press kit



Thomas_Haehn_URG_CEO.jpg | 1920x1920px

United Robotics Group
© Klaus Reinelt



Xavier_Lacherade_Softbank_CEO.jpg | 1920x1920px

United Robotics Group
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The_Box_Labor.jpg | 1920x1080px

© United Robotics Group



The_Box_Labor.jpg | 1920x1920px

© United Robotics Group

► The Box



URG_RobSolutions_uMobileLab.jpg | 1080x1920px

© United Robotics Group



URG_RobSolutions_uMobileLab_noBG.jpg | 1080x1920px

© United Robotics Group

► Robsolutions
(United Robotics Group Health & Food)

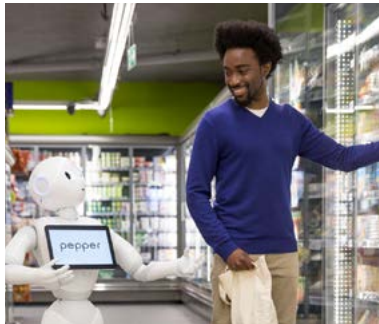


Sawyer-1.jpg | 1920x1080px
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Sawyer-factory.jpg | 1920x1080px
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► Sawyer



Pepper-Supermarket.jpg | 1080x1920px
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Pepper-Supermarket-woman.jpg | 1920x1080px
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► Pepper



NAO-noBG-2.jpg| 1920x1920px
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NAO-noBG.jpg| 1920x1920px
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► Nao

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further information and media material.

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