



I-RIM
Istituto di Robotica e
Macchine Intelligenti

PRESS RELEASE

The launch of Italy's Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Machines

Grand opening with three days of events at the Fiera di Roma

Rome, July 1, 2019 - The I-RIM Association has been officially established, bringing together prominent Italian players in the world of robotics and intelligent machines, including the most visionary research and the industry most open to advanced technologies.

A constellation of illustrious names in Italian research signed on with the institute before a notary public. The I-RIM's first board of directors includes Dario, De Luca, Guglielmelli, Laschi, Melchiorri, Metta, Rocco and Siciliano. The promoting group is bringing together the best researchers in the entire Italian peninsula to organize a 3-day event under the enthusiastic guidance of new president Antonio Bicchi, featuring many events of interest to the general public, researchers and business people.

The Institute

I-RIM is the Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Machines, a national non-profit association created to promote the development and use of Interaction Technologies for the benefit of citizens and society.

'The motto of our newborn institution is "Let's represent Artificial Intelligence"'. says Antonio Bicchi. 'Inter-Action Technologies (IAT) are at the basis of Artificial Intelligence systems designed to act on the physical environment, to perceive, understand and modify it. They are therefore complementary to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), which are mainly concerned with collecting, transmitting and analysing data.'

Examples of areas in which Interaction Technologies are essential include physical support for elderly or disabled people, reducing hazards and fatigue in the workplace, improving procedures used to manufacture material goods and to enhance their sustainability, increasing safety and efficiency, reducing the environmental impact of transporting people and goods and making progress in diagnostic and surgical techniques.

'I-RIM wants to leverage the great strength of the Italian manufacturing sector' adds Cecilia Laschi, vice president of I-RIM, 'and the excellence of our research in robotics and intelligent machines so that we can work together and create synergy with ICT organizations and achieve our shared goals of social and economic progress for society as a whole.'

I-RIM facts

- I-RIM is the Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Machines, a national non-profit association founded in 2019
- I-RIM promotes the development and use of Interaction Technologies for the benefit of citizens and society
- I-RIM favours new solutions to help people, improve working conditions, increase production sustainability, and to achieve the transfer and economic development of research
- I-RIM helps companies to meet their innovation needs and facilitates the transformation of research into economic value
- I-RIM creates opportunities to bring together the supply and demand sides of advanced technology on a national and international scale
- I-RIM represents academic and industrial stakeholders in Robotics, Intelligent Machines and Interaction Technologies
- I-RIM supports Italian excellence in Interaction Technologies and collaborates in other areas of Artificial Intelligence to achieve our shared goals in achieving progress

The 3 Days of robotics and intelligent machines

I-RIM will be introduced to the public at a major three-day event to be held in pavilions 9 and 10 of the Fiera di Roma, from 18 to 20 October 2019. The calendar is full of meetings for I-RIM members, but the events are open to all interested parties. The *Three Days* event is held jointly with *Maker Faire - The European Edition 2019*, the technological event attracting tens of thousands of fans of technology. The Three Days event and Maker Faire will be held in parallel at the Fiera di Roma.

The events will include the first year of the **Italian Conference of Robotics and Intelligent Machines**, dedicated to fostering excellence in Italian research, to inform product and application developers about the possibilities offered by the latest results. The presentations will be non-academic, clear and understandable for an audience that is technically informed even if not highly specialized. The organizers are Alessandro De Luca (Sapienza University of Rome) as General Chair, and Barbara Caputo (Turin Polytechnic and Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia), Cecilia Laschi (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa) and Domenico Prattichizzo (University of Siena) as Program Chairs of the event.

In the pavilions of the Fair, in collaboration with Maker Faire Rome, there will also be an exhibition of current and future Interaction Technologies. The framework for the Three Days, called **Dai Progetti ai Prodotti (From Projects to Products)**, will show the *products* of Italian research and industry and their applications, present the *projects* that will create the future products and provide information about the *programs* of the financiers that support them. The sponsors of this exhibition area are Eugenio Guglielmelli (University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome), Claudio Melchiorri

(Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna) and Giorgio Metta (Italian Institute of Technology and University of Plymouth, UK).

Another new element will be the event **Ricerca Ti Presento Innovazione (Research, meet Innovation)**, which will bring together supply and demand forces in the advanced technology field. At this event industry, research, market and capital will be introduced via 'matchmaking' on a national and international scale. Industries looking for advanced technologies to further innovation and improve their products and processes will be able to meet up with the most dynamic and innovative spin-offs. More ambitious start-ups will also attract the boldest investors to create and grow new businesses. This event will be coordinated by Sergio Savaresi (Milan Polytechnic) and Fabrizio Caccavale (University of Basilicata).

Among the Institute's objectives is the coordination of efforts to transform Italian companies according to the 4.0 paradigm. **Prova d'Orchestra (Rehearsal)**, organized by I-RIM and Maker Faire Rome, is an opportunity for the various Competence Centres of the MiSE Impresa 4.0 program to meet with and get to know the Digital Innovation Hubs, Knowledge and Innovation Communities, companies, Technology Clusters and many other public and private instruments for technology transfer, forming a system from many elements that are fundamental to the country's growth. The meeting will give public institutions an opportunity to reflect on the creation of a national and European director for this transformation. Paolo Dario (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa), Paolo Rocco (Milan Polytechnic) and the organizers of Maker Faire will take the lead in this operation.

An important discussion will be held on training and guiding employees towards Enterprise 4.0. The meetings held as part of **Learning and Teaching Digital Work** will allow reflection on training new recruits to get up to speed in the manufacturing world and launching new young businesses. An overview of the educational and lifelong learning paths for industry and services using Interaction Technologies will be provided. Companies in urgent need of new skills will be able to directly meet the brightest graduates through a quick 'speed dating' mechanism inspired by youth dating apps. Paolo Fiorini (University of Verona) and Lorenzo Marconi (Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna), in collaboration with the Maker Faire team, will be called to manage and develop this framework.

Finally, the Three Days of I-RIM will take care to illustrate and share with the general public the opportunities as well as the problems that the increasingly widespread use of robots and intelligent machines present to us. I-RIM, in collaboration with Maker Faire, will cover the most advanced and surprising results of research and the most lively topics of discussion through **Major Communications Pathways** to bring interested parties together with Italian and international major players, in the discussion of research and the ethics and aesthetics of robots and intelligent machines. This will be organized by Bruno Siciliano (University of Naples Federico II) and the Maker Faire Rome team.

The general manager of the Three Days of Robotics and Intelligent Machines will be Antonio Bicchi (University of Pisa and the Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia), the president of I-RIM.

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