

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
 Prof. Stefano Stramigioli
 IMPACT Institute
 University of Twente
 P.O. Box 217
 7500AE Enschede
 The Netherlands
 Phone: +31 53 4892794
 Fax: +31 53 4892223
 Email: S.Stramigioli@ieee.org
<http://www.ce.utwente.nl/smi/>

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

Kimon P. Valavanis, University of Denver (USA)

Associate Editors

Eugenio Guglielmelli Campus Bio-Medico University,
 Roma (Italy)
 Davide Brugali Università degli Studi di
 Bergamo, Italy
 Bram Vanderborght Vrije Universiteit Brussel,
 Belgium
 Zhi-Dong Wang Chiba Institute of Technology
 (Japan)
 Jonathan Roberts CSIRO (Australia)
 Pedro J. Sanz Jaume-I University (Spain)

Liaisons

Frank C. Park Seoul National University,
 Korea (T-RO)
 Michael Yu Wang Chinese University of Hong Kong
 (T-ASE)
 Kostas Kyriakopoulos National Technical University
 of Athens (Greece)

IEEE RAS Vice-President for Publications

Peter Luh, University of Connecticut (USA)

RAM homepage: <http://www.ieee-ras.org/ram>

Robotics and Automation Society Administrator

Rosalyn Graham Snyder
 (r.g.snyder@ieee.org)

Advertising Sales

Susan Schneiderman
 Business Development Manager
 Tel: +1 732 562 3946 Fax: +1 732 981 1855
 ss.ieeemedia@ieee.org

IEEE Periodicals Magazines Department

Debby Nowicki, Managing Editor
 (d.nowicki@ieee.org)
 Janet Dudar, Senior Art Director
 Gail A. Schnitzer, Assistant Art Director
 Theresa L. Smith, Production Coordinator
 Felicia Spagnoli, Advertising Production Manager
 Peter M. Tuohy, Production Director
 Dawn M. Melley, Editorial Director
 Fran Zappulla, Staff Director, Publishing Operations

IEEE-RAS Membership

and Subscription Information:

+1 800 678 IEEE (4333); Fax: +1 732 463 3657
<http://www.ieee.org>

An Incredible Experience

It has been a great journey! To lead the magazine for four years has, indeed, been a great journey and an incredible experience for me thanks to the opportunity I have had to work with great, motivated people and to be of service to our great IEEE Robotics and Automation Society.



Since this is my last editorial, I want to take the opportunity to share with you some of the changes and achievements during my tenure. Many new editorials and ideas have been tried out during my office, such as the regional columns, lab-corner, and tutorials. Some of them, such as the lab-corner, did not receive much response, but some of them were a great success, such as the tutorials. Stricter guidelines have been implemented for page budgets, and clear procedures have been defined for the board management and special issues. We went electronic via the paper management system and stepped over to a new, much better version recently.

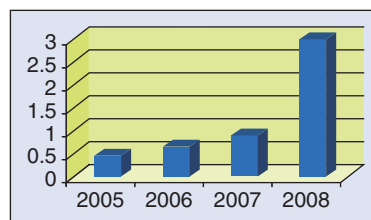


Figure 1. Impact factor.

However, did all this contribute to improving the quality and appreciation of the magazine? I am glad to say that really seems to be the case, especially related to the quality indicators, which I am very glad to share with you (Figure 1). Yes, the impact factor (IF) has increased steadily and exploded last year to three, making *IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine (RAM)* the publication with the highest IF among all robotics journals! I still have problems believing it myself, but I am greatly enjoying it!

These achievements are due to the many people involved directly or indirectly, like all associate editors who have invested a great amount of their time in handling reviews, Rosalyn Snyder, without whom I would have never taken this office, Bill Hamel and Peter Luh as vice president (VP) publications, and many others.

Peter Corke will be the next editor-in-chief (EiC), and, as I said in my last editorial, I have no doubt that the magazine is in great hands. The photo shows us in St. Louis at Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2009, where we met with the *IEEE Robotics and Automation Magazine* board and shared ideas about the future of the magazine. I wish him success and as much pleasure as I had.

This last issue is about space robotics and is guest edited by Rick Wagner, Richard Volpe, and Gianfranco Visentin. The tutorial is the first part on software architectures for robotics, which is a topic of great relevance in our field.

Good bye *RAM*!

Enjoy the issue!

Stefano Stramigioli
 S.Stramigioli@ieee.org