# **AN AUTONOMOUS MOBILE ROBOT FOR TRANSPORTING conventional WHEELCHAIRS IN HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS**

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**Abstract**

Industry 4.0 presents itself as a new era in which the industry is led by technologies such as robotics, artificial intelligence, and devices interconnection. The increasing implementation of robots in industries allows for a better quality of service with high accuracy in less time. As a result, these advantages are now in other areas such as medicine or the military to mitigate problems.

In healthcare institutions, the transport of patients is a recurrent, time-consuming, non-ergonomic task and requires the help of assistants. There are solutions such as electric wheelchairs that facilitate patient motion or intelligent wheelchairs that transport patients to their destination autonomously, however, their costs are high, and replacing them with these chairs requires a huge financial effort from the institutions.

This project aims to propose an AMR (Autonomous Mobile Robot) for existing conventional wheelchair transportation in hospitals, clinics, etc. The transport request commands will be given to the robot through a central application by the doctor or nurse and will be in constant communication with the institution's management system. This robot running ROS (Robot Operating System), will attach itself autonomously to the conventional wheelchair, in a secure, easy, and fast link. Communication with the institution's management system is essential, as sometimes transportation involves a change of floor and, thus, access to elevators is mandatory, since destination may be as diverse as cafeterias, areas of treatment or diagnostic, outdoor, etc.

To validate the system will be done some tests such as evaluation of the performance of the coupling system to the chair, efficiency of coupling, evaluation of the efficiency of the patient safety system, and evaluation of efficiency and the whole system as well as the transport time in a set of tests. The expected result of this project will be a robotic system based in ROS to assist in the management of wheelchair transportation in health institutions, increasing their availability and reducing the time needed for medical staff in these tasks.

**References**

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