Letter to MODEX Speakers

Dear ,

Thank you for agreeing to speak at the upcoming MODEX seminar on *Next Generation Packaging, Kitting, and Palletizing: Can one robot do it all?* The seminar will take place from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on February 9, 2012 in room C105 of the Georgia World Congress Center. The Center is located at 285 Andrew Young Intl. Blvd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30313.

The format of the seminar will be to hold 20-30 minute invited talks (depending on the number of speakers) followed by a panel discussion. A summary of the seminar will be compiled by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and produced as a white paper to be disseminated to the community for feedback. We would like you to participate by both presenting a talk and joining the panel. The list of speakers includes:

* Mark Gabriel: Boeing Research (invited)
* Mark Lewandowski: Proctor & Gamble (invited)
* Roland Menassa: General Motors (invited)
* Dick Motley: Fanuc Robotics America (confirmed)
* Erik Nieves: Yaskawa America, Inc., Motoman Robotics Division (confirmed)
* David Peters: Universal Robotics, Inc. (invited)
* Larry Sweet: C&S Wholesale Grocers (confirmed)
* Christian Wurll: Kuka Systems North America (confirmed)

The basic premise of the seminar is to educate the audience on the current state-of-the-art in robotics for packaging, kitting, and palletizing while exploring what technical barriers exist to creating the next generation of flexible robots that may be easily and quickly retasked. NIST is sponsoring and organizing this seminar because we are exploring possible new standards and performance measurement efforts that we hope will aid in ushering in the next generation of robotics. We are particularly interested in exploring novel benchmarks for system performance and if a common knowledge representation is possible/useful. Please include your viewpoint and information on these items in your presentation. We would also appreciate a copy of your final slides for internal use in the white paper preparation. A final, detailed schedule will follow as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

Best,

Stephen Balakirsky