

## US Congressional Robotics Caucus (CRC)

The Congressional Robotics Caucus (CRC) is a bipartisan committee of congressional members and expert advisors formed in 2007 to focus on key issues facing the nation's robotics industry and emerging robotics technology. Headed by Congressmen Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Rob Woodall (R-GA), the goal of the caucus is to inform Congress and the public about the importance of robotics to our nation's economic growth, defense, safety, global competitiveness, and quality of life.

### Congressional Robotics Caucus and Advisory Committee Members

As of 2015, the CRC consists of 24 other house representatives (11 Republicans and 13 Democrats) from 15 states, including the following members:

Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-GA

Rep. Joe Barton R-TX

Rep. Robert Brady, D-PA

Rep. Mo Brooks, R-AL

Rep. Susan Brooks, R-IN

Rep. Michael Capuano D-MA

Rep. Susan Davis, D-CA

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-OR

Rep. Mike Honda D-CA

Rep. Doug Lamborn R-CO

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Rep. James R. Langevin R-RI

Rep. Robert Latta R-OH

Rep. Jerry McNerney D-CA

Rep. Jim McGovern D-MA

Rep. David McKinley, R-WV

Rep. Tim Murphy R-PA

Rep. Tim Ryan D-OH

Rep. Jan Schakowsky D-IL

Rep. Bill Shuster R-PA

Rep. Bennie Thompson D-MS

Rep. Glenn Thompson R-PA

Rep. Niki Tsongas D-MA

Rep. Robert Wittman R-VA

Rep. John Lewis D-GA

The Advisory Committee provides the CRC firsthand learning in the use of robotics in agriculture, mining, logistics, defense, education, manufacturing and healthcare. The 11 members of the advisory committee include the Association for Competitive Technology, the Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute, the Computing Research Association (CRA), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA), the Robotics and Automation Society, the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council (MasTLC), the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS), the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), SAE

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International, and the National Advanced Mobility Consortium (NAMC). Their general goals are as follows:

- Increase the general awareness among Members of Congress of the challenges and issues facing the robotics industry.
- Educate members of Congress and congressional staff on current & future research and development, and utilization initiatives.
- Serve as a forum for exchange of ideas and where robotics-related policy issues can be debated and discussed.
- Ensure that our nation remains globally competitive as the robotics industry expands and further affects the way we live our lives.

### CRC Robotics Briefings: Congress, research experts and the public

The Congressional Robotics Caucus meetings consists of briefings, demonstrations and workshops sponsored by various members of the Advisory Committee. In 2013, the Robotics and Automation Society sponsored a congressional briefing on “Robots and Job Creation” in order to gather experts in the field to demonstrate how robots contribute to job growth and sustainability, dispelling the myth that robots will take jobs away from humans. The Advisory Committee also presented a federally-funded “Roadmap for Robotics” which highlighted recent innovations in robots and their critical role in manufacturing, healthcare, new markets, and improving quality of life. In 2014, the IEEE-USA sponsored a briefing called “Robots for Good: The Humanitarian, Environmental, Educational, Medical, and Search & Rescue Uses of Robotic

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Technology.” This event focused on co-robotics and included talks on altruistic flying robots, using robots in wildlife protection services, undersea robots, and community improvement through robotics. So far, these briefings have always included talks and/or demonstrations by Carnegie Mellon University researchers, along with experts from other universities and companies (such as CyPhy Works and Bluefin Robotics) that may or may not be associated with the committee itself.

In 2015, the committee has hosted two briefings: one on “Robotics in Infrastructure: Reimagining Energy, Water, and Transportation Monitoring and Maintenance,” which featured five speakers—three from Carnegie Mellon University, one from Georgia Tech and one from the University of Illinois. Another briefing, titled “Robotics & Inventors: Ingredients for a Successful, Innovative Economy” and sponsored by IEEE-USA, Carnegie Mellon University, USInventor.org, Georgia Tech, and CRA featured speakers from government agencies, universities, and corporations to discuss future applications of robots. The session also prominently featured demonstrations of nine cutting-edge inventions, including the eFit (a 3-d medical ear scanner by United Sciences), a multirotor drone (HKRobotics), an elastic snake robot (Carnegie Mellon University), an indoor navigator for the visually impaired (COSY, LLC), a music glove for veterans who have lost finger dexterity (UC Irvine), and the Carl-SJR, a robot designed to help autistic children with their social interaction skills (UC Irvine).

The CRC briefings are open to the public and widely attended in Washington D.C. These events provide insight into current trends in robotics research, as well as networking opportunities and the perspective of Congress—whom provide the majority of funding for robotics research—on