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## **Prof. Dr. Ing. Gerd Hirzinger**

Prof. Gerd Hirzinger is director at DLR's institute for „Robotics and Mechatronics“, which is one of the biggest and most acknowledged Institutes in the field worldwide, including not only robot development for space and terrestrial applications, but also aircraft control and optimization, vehicle technology (x by wire components and systems) and medical technology (artificial hearts and surgical robots). He was prime investigator of the space robot technology experiment ROTEX, the first remote controlled robot in space, which flew onboard shuttle COLUMBIA in April 93. After several other space projects (e.g. ROKVISS on the space station ISS) his institute meanwhile has the longest experience with remotely controlled robots in earth orbit. Gerd Hirzinger has published more than 600 papers in robotics, mainly on robot sensing, sensory feedback, mechatronics, man-machine interfaces, telerobotics and space robotics. He was chairman, committee member and plenary speaker of numerous international conferences. He is now member of the IEEE fellow award committee.

He received numerous national and international awards, e.g. in 1994 the Joseph-Engelberger-Award for achievements in robotic science and in 1995 the Leibniz-Award, the highest scientific award in Germany and the JARA (Japan robotics association) Award. In 1996 he received the Karl-Heinz-Beckurts-Award, Germany's most important award for outstanding promotion of the partnership between science and industry, and in 1997 the IEEE-Fellow Award. In 2004 he got the order of merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2005 he received the IEEE Pioneer Award of the Robotics and Automation Society, and in 2007 the IEEE Field Award "Robotics and Automation". In 2008 he received the Nichols medal, presumably the highest award of the International Federation auf Automatic Control (IFAC) in the field of control.