



JOINT NEWS RELEASE

Singapore, 29 Nov 2021

New software allows industrial robots to achieve touch sensitivity and precision close to human hands

Eureka Robotics, a tech spin-off from **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)**, has developed a technology, called *Dynamis*, that makes industrial robots nimbler and almost as sensitive as human hands, able to manipulate tiny glass lenses, electronics components, or engine gears that are just millimetres in size without damaging them.

This proprietary force feedback technology developed by NTU scientists was previously demonstrated by the “Ikea Bot” which assembled an Ikea chair in just 20 minutes. The breakthrough was first published in the top scientific journal *Science* in 2018 and went viral on the internet when it could match the dexterity of human hands in assembling furniture.

NTU Associate Professor Pham Quang Cuong, Co-founder of Eureka Robotics, said they have since upgraded the software technology, which will be made available for a large number of industrial robots worldwide by **Denso Wave**, a market leader in industrial robots, which is part of the Toyota Group.

Clients purchasing the latest robots sold by Denso Wave will have an option to include this new technology as part of the force controller, which reads the force detected by a force sensor on the robot’s wrist and applies force accordingly: apply too little force and the items may not be assembled correctly while applying too much force could damage the items.

Mastering “touch sensitivity” and dexterity like human hands has always been the holy grail for roboticists, says Assoc Prof Pham, as the programming of the force controller is extremely complicated, requiring long hours to perfect the grip just for a specific task.

“Today, *Dynamis* has made it easy for anyone to programme touch-sensitive tasks that are usually done by humans, such as assembly, fine manipulation, polishing or sanding,” explains Assoc Prof Pham, who is also the Deputy Director of the Robotics Research Centre at NTU’s School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

“These tasks all share a common characteristic: the ability to maintain consistent contact with a surface. If our human hands are deprived of our touch sensitivity, such as when wearing a thick glove, we would find it very hard to put tiny Lego blocks together, much less assemble the tiny components of a car engine or of a camera used in our mobile phones.”

Hiroyasu Baba, FA/Robotics Business Unit Product Planning Department, Manager of Denso Wave, said: "Due to its high basic performance and openness, DENSO robots are the preferred choice by companies and universities with advanced initiatives in the field of robotics. NTU Singapore and Eureka Robotics have also been using DENSO robots for this reason.

“Because of this relationship, joint development began naturally, and we were able to launch this product smoothly. The technology, which will be installed in DENSO robots, is a technology for force feedback, which is becoming more and more important in the practical use of robotics. Thanks to the development capabilities of Eureka Robotics, the system is advanced, yet easy to use and light enough to be integrated into our standard robot controllers.”

How the new software works

Known as "Force Sensor Robust Compliance Control", the new software powered by *Dynamis* requires only a single parameter to be set – which is stiffness of the contact, whether it is soft, medium, or hard.

Despite its “simple set-up”, it has been shown to out-perform conventional robotic controllers which required an enormous amount of expertise and time to fine-tune.

Dynamis is a complex Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithm developed by Assoc Prof Pham and his former PhD student, now Co-founder and CTO of Eureka Robotics, **Dr Hung Pham**.

This backbone technology was further improved and was first deployed in Eureka’s custom-built robots, such as Archimedes, which can handle fragile optical lenses and mirrors with human-like dexterity, now used by multiple companies worldwide.

Current robots in the market have either high accuracy but low agility (where robots perform the same movements repeatedly such as in a car factory), or low accuracy but high agility (such as robots handling packages of different sizes in logistics).

By deploying this technology, robotics engineers can now imbue robots with both High Accuracy and High Agility (HAHA) on a large scale, paving the way for industrial applications that were previously very difficult or impossible to implement, such as

handling and assembly of delicate, fragile objects such as optical lenses, electronics components, or engine gears.

To be equipped with the "Force Sensor Robust Compliance Control" capability, the large number of robots already running on Denso Wave's RC8 controllers will only be required to perform a simple software update from December 2021 onwards, while newly shipped RC8 controllers will come packed with the software available for activation.

Incubating Eureka Robotics and helping to speed up its commercialisation processes is NTU's innovation and commercialisation company **NTUitive**, as part of the Innovation pillar under the NTU 2025 strategic plan, which seeks to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges.

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About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Engineering, Business, Science, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges. It also has a medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, established jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of

Singapore, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Ranked amongst the world's top universities by QS, NTU has also been named the world's top young university for the last seven years. The University's main campus is frequently listed among the Top 15 most beautiful university campuses in the world and it has 57 Green Mark-certified (equivalent to LEED-certified) building projects, of which 95% are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a campus in Singapore's healthcare district.

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

About Denso Wave Incorporated

DENSO WAVE is part of the DENSO Group, a member of the Toyota Group.

Business Activities

Development, manufacturing and sales of automatic data capture equipment, industrial robots, programmable controllers, IoT and other apparatus and systems.

Business fields

DENSO WAVE offers products that contribute to improving productivity in the industrial world in its four business fields: the AUTO-ID business for developing, designing and selling barcode, QR Code and RFID readers; the robot business for developing, designing and selling industrial compact robots; the controller business for developing security controllers and programmable controllers; and the system solution business for offering security, cashless and QR Code solutions.

About Eureka Robotics

Featured in the New York Times, the Guardian, the Economist, and CNN, Eureka Robotics is revolutionizing the field of robotics. Empowered by Robotics and A.I. research from NTU Singapore and MIT, Eureka Robotics delivers robotic software and systems to automate tasks that require High Accuracy and High Agility (#HABA).

With offices in Singapore and France and distribution partners in China, Japan, and the USA, Eureka Robotics prides itself on helping clients, globally, achieve vastly

improved productivity, lower costs, better safety. Common uses include precision-handling, assembly, inspection, drilling, and many other domains.

For more information, visit <https://eurekarobotics.com>