



Universität Bremen

# Service Robotics – State of the Art in an Emerging Market

Thomas Röfer

Bremen Institute of Safe Systems  
Center of Computing Technology

University of Bremen



# Timeline of Robotics

1921



Karel Čapek

1941



Isaac Asimov

1954



Prog.Arm

1961



Unimation

1968



Shakey

1980



Service robots

1984



100,000 robots



## Asimov's "Laws of Robotics"

### ▶ Law One

- ▶ A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

Safety

### ▶ Law Two

- ▶ A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.

Shared Control,  
Dependability

### ▶ Law Three

- ▶ A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

Availability

## What are Service Robots?

- ▶ Service robots refill vehicles, reconstruct nuclear power plants, take care of the elderly, observe museums, explore other planets or clean aircrafts. So what are service robots?
- ▶ Service robots form an intermediate stage in the evolution from the industrial robot to the personal robot, which might be an important part of our lives in 20 years.
- ▶ Service robots are mobile, manipulative, interact with human beings, or perform tasks autonomously that relieve the human being. They fulfill tasks for humans and facilities: They perform services.



*IEEE and IPA-FhG database on Service Robotics*

# Demands for Service Robots

## ▶ Usability

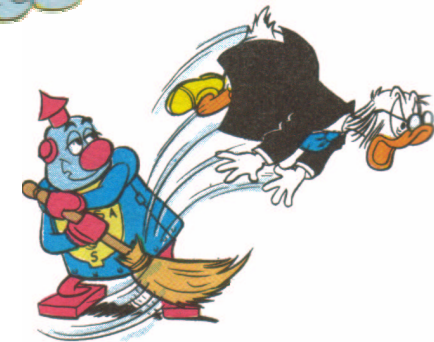
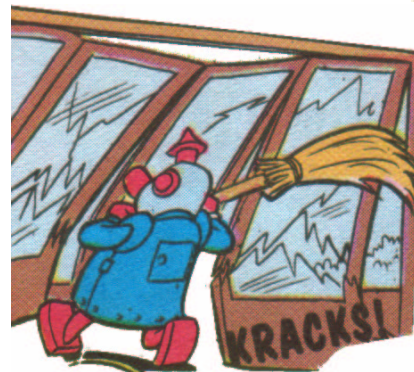
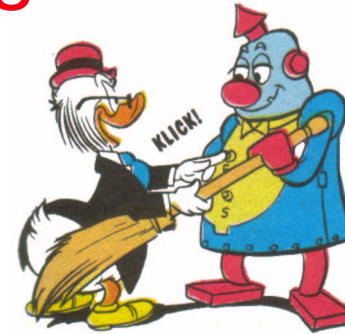
- ▶ Man-Machine-Interface
- ▶ Usable by Laymen/Laywomen

## ▶ Service on a High Level

- ▶ Robust
- ▶ Efficient
- ▶ Precise
- ▶ Cost-Effective

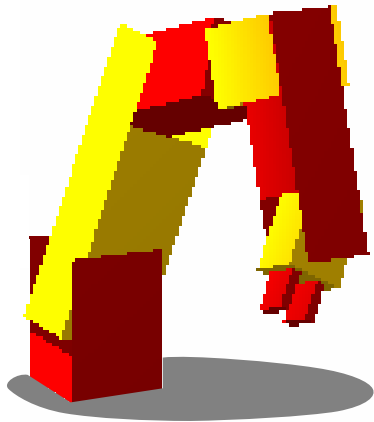
## ▶ Reliability

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Availability
- ▶ Dependability





# Safety in Service Robotics



**Increasing Safety Demands**



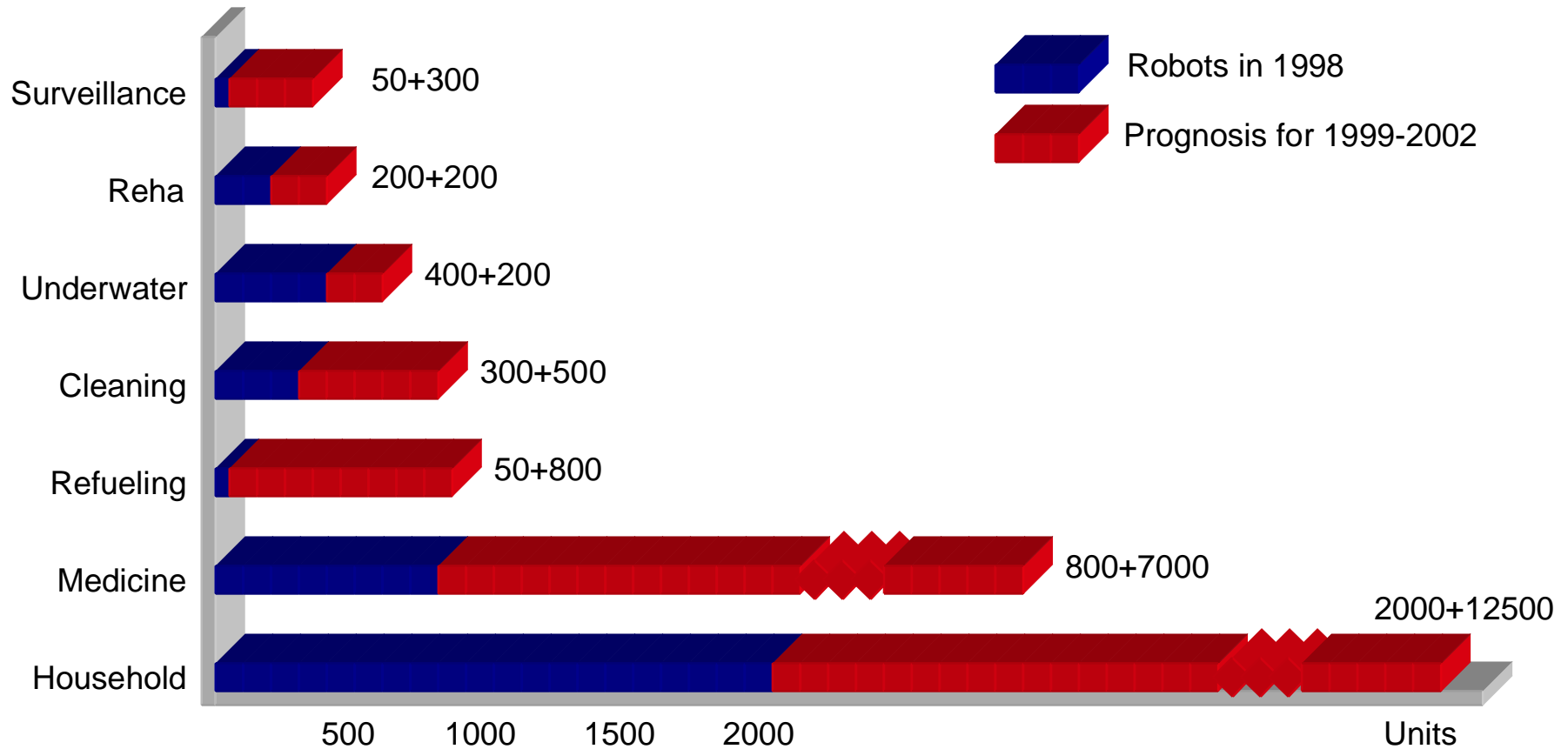
## Kinds of Service Robots

- ▶ **Agriculture**
- ▶ **Care / Rehabilitation**
- ▶ **Cleaning**
- ▶ **Construction**
- ▶ **Demining**
- ▶ **Entertainment**
- ▶ **Fire-Fighting**
- ▶ **Hobby / Leisure Time**
- ▶ **Hotel / Restaurant**
- ▶ **Marketing**
- ▶ **Medical**
- ▶ **Mining**
- ▶ **Monitoring**
- ▶ **Office**
- ▶ **Reconstruction**
- ▶ **Refueling**
- ▶ **Sorting**
- ▶ **Space**
- ▶ **Underwater**

*IEEE and IPA-FhG database on Service Robotics*



# Market Analysis



UN/ECE and IFR (1999)



# Surveillance and Inspection

## ▶ Application Domains

- ▶ Inspection of Sewer Systems
- ▶ Guarding Buildings, etc.

## ▶ Demands

- ▶ Robust
- ▶ Safe

## ▶ Benefits

- ▶ Inspection of previously unreachable areas
- ▶ Rationalization

## ▶ Examples

- ▶ MAKRO (AiS-GMD, Germany)
- ▶ CyberGuard (Cybermotion, France)



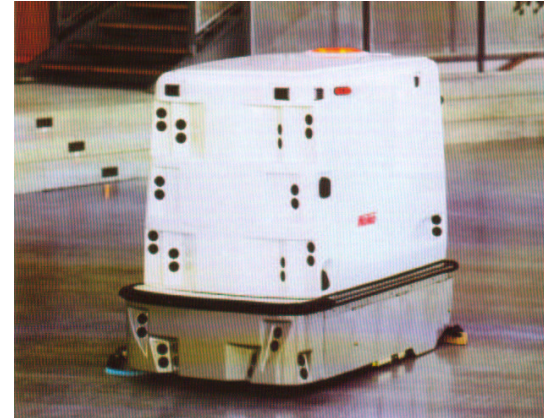
# Rehabilitation

- ▶ **Application Domains**
  - ▶ Elderly, Ill, and Handicapped Persons
  - ▶ (Clinical) Rehabilitation
- ▶ **Demands**
  - ▶ Dependable and Safe
  - ▶ Easy to Use
  - ▶ Adaptable to the Individual
- ▶ **Benefits**
  - ▶ Improvements for the User's Mobility, Autonomy, and Quality of Life
- ▶ **Example**
  - ▶ Rolland (Bremen)



# Cleaning

- ▶ **Application Domains**
  - ▶ Stations, Office Buildings
  - ▶ Planes, Boats, etc.
- ▶ **Demands**
  - ▶ Safe
  - ▶ Robust
- ▶ **Benefits**
  - ▶ Rationalization
  - ▶ Saving of Time
- ▶ **Examples**
  - ▶ ACROMATIC (Hako, Germany)
  - ▶ Skywash SW33 (Putzmeister, Germany)



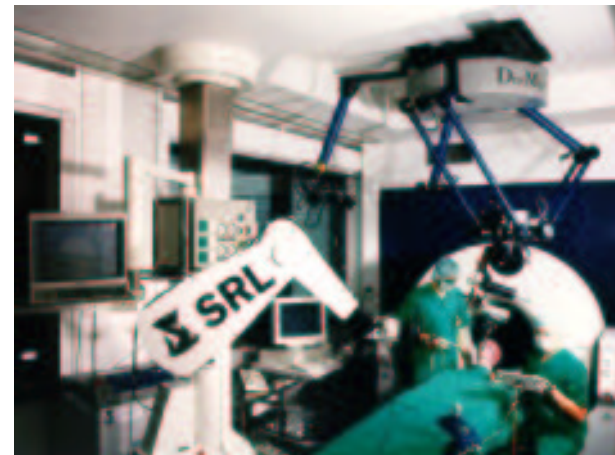
# Refueling

- ▶ **Application Domain**
  - ▶ Automatic Gas Stations
- ▶ **Demands**
  - ▶ Robust and Fault-Tolerant
  - ▶ Precise
- ▶ **Benefits**
  - ▶ Saving of Time
  - ▶ Reducing Risks to Health
  - ▶ Correct Selection of Fuel
- ▶ **Example**
  - ▶ AutoFill (Sweden)



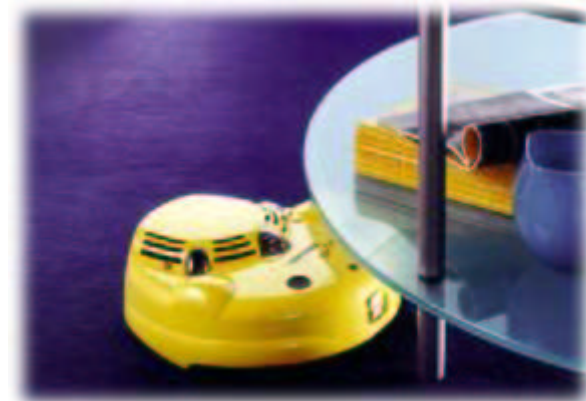
# Medicine

- ▶ **Application Domains**
  - ▶ Support for Operations
  - ▶ (Minimal Invasive) Surgery
- ▶ **Demands**
  - ▶ Precise
  - ▶ Fail-Safe
- ▶ **Benefits**
  - ▶ Higher Precision during Operations
- ▶ **Example**
  - ▶ Surgical Robotics Lab (Charite, Berlin)



# Household

- ▶ **Application Domains**
  - ▶ House Keeping at Home or Gardening
- ▶ **Demands**
  - ▶ Safe
  - ▶ Easy to Use
  - ▶ Cheap
- ▶ **Benefits**
  - ▶ Automation of “Unpleasant” Tasks
  - ▶ Rationalization in Commercial Fields
- ▶ **Examples**
  - ▶ Vacuum-Cleaners (Kärcher, Germany)
  - ▶ Lawn-Mowers (Friendly Robots, Israel)



# Entertainment

- ▶ **Application Domains**

- ▶ Shows
- ▶ Museums
- ▶ Amusement Parks

- ▶ **Demands**

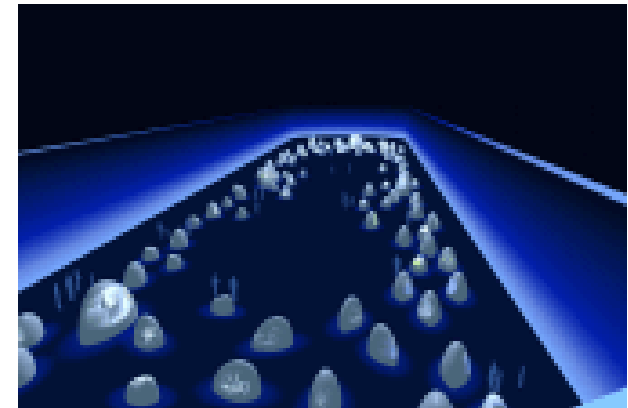
- ▶ Safe
- ▶ Robust

- ▶ **Benefits**

- ▶ New Possibilities for Entertainment

- ▶ **Example**

- ▶ EXPO Theme Park “Mobility” (ZKM / IML-FhG)





# Future of Service Robotics

