

Tenth-Anniversary Winner of the IERA Award Announced!

By Raj Madhavan

The Invention and Entrepreneurship in Robotics and Automation (IERA) Award is jointly sponsored and organized by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) and the International Federation of Robotics (IFR). It highlights and honors the achievements of the inventors with value-creating ideas and entrepreneurs, who propel those ideas into world-class products. This year, the tenth annual IERA award finalists were invited to present their case in a session at the China International Robot Show on 8 July in Shanghai, China. The three nominated finalists were

- Guy Caverot, BA SYSTEMES, France: mobile base designed to receive an X-ray machine
- Yang Yang, Gao Jinrui, and Zheng Yongquan, Chaint Robotics, China: robotic automatic finishing system for iron castings
- Charles Deguire, Kinova, Canada: JACO rehab edition.

After deliberations, the Awards Committee decided to confer the Tenth IERA Award on Guy Caverot (Figure 1). The innovation of BA SYSTEMES' mobile base is in a robot with movement control, a navigation system with proximity detection, omnidirectional displacement, and an X-ray



Figure 1. From left: Dr. Shinsuke Sakakibara, Awards Committee member; Prof. Xiaorui Zhu, Awards Committee member; Prof. Alexander Verl, Awards Committee member; Dr. Guy Caverot, BA SYSTEMES, IERA Award winner; Dr. Raj Madhavan, awards chair and IEEE RAS vice president, Industrial Activities Board; and Arturo Baroncelli, Awards Committee member and IFR president.

picture chain on a 3–5 axis gantry. The system guides various cardiovascular and oncology procedures through three-dimensional (3-D) imaging. It represents a major technological breakthrough in the health-care field in providing an innovative, flexible, and secure solution in the highly demanding environment of hybrid surgery rooms. The automated mobile system enables it to be parked when it is not being used, and the laser guidance system implemented on the machine has millimeter-level accuracy.

Guy Caverot accepted the award and had this to say: “I am very happy to receive this award because it rewards all the employees of BA SYSTEMES for their excellent work. I thank the jury, who acknowledged the importance of innovation management to lead such entrepreneurial project that challenges people and

technology. The prestigious IERA award is a great honor for our company, which seeks the implementation of robotic systems not only in factories and workshops but also in the medical field to ease the life of individuals whatever their activity is.”

In its citation, the committee noted that the award was given to BA SYSTEMES for “the transfer and commercialization of industry knowledge to medical systems and for meeting the strict certification standards.”

For a description of the award and a list of the previous winners, see <http://www.ieee-ras.org/industry-government/ifr-forum/69-awards-recognition/society-awards/63-ieee-ifr-invention-and-entrepreneurship-award>. The call for IERA 2015 award nominations will be issued shortly, and the deadline for submission of the applications will be in January 2015. Stay tuned.