



Men-Robot-Collaboration: A new generation of robots is ready for the market

Interview Prof. Dr. Julian Nida-Rümelin, Professor for Philosophy and Political Theory, University of Munich (LMU):

„We have had automation for many decades, actually already for more than a century. The previous activities in the industry, on the assembly line, for example, have been mostly already replaced by robots or by automated production methods. But that doesn't change the basic findings: people aren't losing work because of this. One sees this in the history of the industry.”

Voice-over:

The inexorable development of technology already enables a cooperation between humans and robots in shared workplaces without separate safety measures.

The new generation of collaborating robots is now moving into the medium-sized firm sector. Bosch has developed a supporting automation assistant for this market.

Interview Wolfgang Pomrehn, Dipl.-Ing., Product Manager Robert Bosch GmbH Bosch

There are already these so-called co-bots, the collaborative robots, at numerous Bosch plants, always where currently boring, monotonous

activities can be taken over by robots. For example at the end of a (production) line for packaging parts or inserting parts into machines.

Voice-over:

The APAS implements components in frames, which then must only be replaced by the employee.

Interview Peter Jörg, Work Scheduler Robert Bosch GmbH:

At first, the staff was a bit skeptical of the robots, because they were afraid of losing their jobs. Now they have realized that they just support them with their activities, and they take a huge load off them so they can get on with more important tasks.

Voice-over:

The precondition for the success of this human-robot collaboration is an appropriate workplace and robot design, so that people will not be endangered.

Interview Wolfgang Pomrehn, Dipl.-Ing., Product Manager Robert Bosch GmbH:

As a collaborative robot, it notices if a person gets too close. It stops and when the person leaves the danger area the robot starts to move again. This means that humans and machines can work hand in hand.

Voice-over:

Work - and maybe not only work - will change with progressive automation and digitalization. That's for sure, but will workers become superfluous in the future?

Interview Dr. Ulrich Walwei, Vice Director Institute for Employment Research

The human-robot collaboration will not eliminate the workers. Robots will help with the daily grind at work, and will basically assist people.

Interview Jürgen Wechsler, District Manager IG Metall Bayern (Labour Union):

But routine activities will be lost, yet more sophisticated tasks will appear. At that point the magic word will be "Change through education, through qualifications (skills)"... that will be the big challenge.

Voice-over:

These fundamental changes are already taking place. Various scenarios are possible for the future.

Interview Prof. Dr. Julian Nida-Rümelin, Professor for Philosophy and Political Theory, University of Munich (LMU):

In the ideal world, this will unleash creativity and intelligence and more possibilities for communication to concentrate on the more important things. In the worst case, humans will be exploited and become a source for data gathering frenzy. These are the two extremes. Which will happen? Probably one in between. But we can't predict.

Voice-over:

It is up to us how we shape the future promisingly. Automatica show-cases these ideas from the 21st to the 24th of June 2016 in Munich.