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## Focused Technical and Networking Session on China – EU cooperation The Role of Robotics in the Sea Oceans'16 Shanghai – 2016/04/10-13

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As the Oceans16 official motto says: “**Our Future is with Oceans**”. Effective long term solutions for autonomous operations in the oceans are still challenges not yet solved. While commercial oilfield inspection with autonomous vehicles is now a commercial reality, fielded robots continue to heavily rely on accurate a-priori models of the subsea assets and expose limited capabilities for autonomous decision making. For the societal challenges we are facing, robust, autonomous and *intelligent* marine robots are more and more a need rather than a scientific intellectual play.

The **impact** of such robotics spans over many fields, from oil&gas infrastructure monitoring and intervention, to offshore windfarm applications, from enabling marine biologists to gather needed data to secure patrolling of harbours, from responding to environmental catastrophes to surveying important archeological sites, and so on.

Both EU and China, as key players in the world, are strongly involved in this area. A cooperation would be very beneficial for both. We invite researchers from EU and China to contribute to this session “**The Role of Robotics in the Sea**”, which will be structured in three parts:

- **Scientific Contributions:** we intend to showcase successful projects from both sides, with a focus on lesson learned, transferability and impact.
- **Company Showcase:** selected European and Chinese companies will have the opportunity for a pitch of their products and services.
- **Public and Expert Panel:** panel with representatives of public authorities and scientists to discuss current scientific and societal challenges and cooperation opportunities.

If you are interested to submit a scientific contribution, please contact Francesco Maurelli <maurelli@in.tum.de> and Xianbo Xiang <xbxiang@hust.edu.cn> no later than the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, with an abstract (500-1000 words) following the standard Oceans template. The authors will be then given instructions for submission on the Oceans16 website, in order to identify and group those contributions. Final notification will follow standard Oceans deadlines.

### Contacts

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