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Humanoid Communication Robot Will Leave Japan for the International Space Station in Summer 2013

Dentsu Inc. (Tokyo: 4324; ISIN: JP3551520004; President & CEO: Tadashi Ishii; Head Office: Tokyo; Capital: 58,967.1 million yen) announced today that the humanoid communication robot being developed under the KIBO ROBOT PROJECT, a joint research project being carried out in collaboration with the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, the University of Tokyo (Director: Dr. Yoshiaki Nakano; hereinafter "RCAST") and ROBO GARAGE Co., Ltd. (CEO: Tomotaka Takahashi; hereinafter "ROBO GARAGE"), is expected to be completed in February 2013. In the summer of the same year, it will be sent to the Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" in the International Space Station.

The KIBO ROBOT PROJECT, whose aim is to create a humanoid communication robot that will be a companion for the Japanese astronauts who will be living in the Kibo Experiment Module, was jointly submitted by Dentsu, RCAST and ROBO GARAGE in response to the call last year from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (President: Keiji Tachikawa) for a feasibility study proposal on the theme of solving social issues in the experiment module. The proposal was accepted, and the project team has been working for more than a year on developing a robot that can communicate with the astronauts via autonomous actions and remote operations. The robot will also transmit information from the Kibo module to Earth.



Dimensions: Height: 34 cm, Width: 18 cm, Depth: 15 cm (approx.)

Weight: 1000 g (approx.)

Language: Japanese

Main features: Voice (speech) recognition, natural language processing, voice (speech) synthesis, telecommunications functions, communication actions, facial recognition camera, recording camera

- The design and specifications are subject to change.
- The coloring, speech and voices of the two robots (one in space and one on Earth) may differ slightly.
- The design data can be downloaded at: <http://kibo-robo.jp/>

In winter 2013 the robot will come face-to-face with Koichi Wakata, the first Japanese commander of the International Space Station, and will take part in the world's first conversation experiment held between a person and a robot in outer space. A second robot with the same specifications will be built to serve as a backup and for demonstration purposes on Earth.

Together with leading engineering companies in Japan, RCAST and ROBO GARAGE have been working on the development of the robot hardware, while Dentsu has been involved in the creation of the conversation content. Toyota Motor Corporation (President: Akio Toyoda; hereinafter "Toyota"), a new addition to the project team, is responsible for the voice recognition and natural language processing functions that comprise the robot's intelligence. Through its participation in this project, Toyota will gather data and collate the accumulated technology that is instrumental to interactive services as well as the development of the "Toyota Partner Robot" that can coexist with people.

The project collaborators hope that the project's activities will disseminate Japan's technological strengths to the international community, and make a contribution to the development of industry and science education.

Project Team Members

Dentsu Inc.

Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, the University of Tokyo

ROBO GARAGE Co., Ltd.

Toyota Motor Corporation

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (cooperation)

Technical Collaboration

Japan Manned Space Systems Corporation

Vstone Co., Ltd.

crossEffect, Inc.

YUKAI Engineering

Futaba Corporation

HOYA Service Corporation

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