

Advancing the Science and Technology
of Robotics in the AI era



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<https://heron-robotics-coe.eu>



**HERON Sponsors & Networking
Event**

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

09:00 - 17:30



Funded by
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GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR
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ISTITUTO
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Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

ATHENS - GREECE

Agenda

9:00-9:30 **Registration**

9:30-9:45 **Opening Introduction**

Prof. Petros **Maragos**, *HERON Director, Athena RC, NTUA*

9:45-10:10 **Welcome Speeches**

- Stavros **Kalafatis**, *Deputy Minister of Development, Greece*
- Anastasios **Gaitanis**, *Secretary General for Research and Innovation, Greece*
- Prof. Ioannis **Emiris**, *Project Coordinator, Athena RC Director, NKUA*
- Prof. Emmanuel **Varvarigos**, *Vice Rector for Research & Innovation, NTUA*

10:10-11:25 **Panel 1: Healthcare Robotics**

Panel Moderator:

Costas **Tzafestas**, *Professor NTUA, HERON, Athena RC*

Panelists:

- Yannis **Dionyssiotis**, *Head of the 2nd Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Dept., National Rehabilitation Center / Assistant Professor, University of Patras*
- Angeliki **Karava**, *Business Director, ISLE Academy, SofMedica Group*
- Konstantinos **Konstantinidis**, *Thoracic Surgeon, 251 Hellenic Air Force General Hospital / Head of 1st Thoracic Surgery Dept., Robotic & Thoracoscopic Surgery, Metropolitan General Hospital*
- Mathios **Michelinakis**, *Artion Medical*
- Nikolaos **Smyrnis**, *Professor of Psychiatry, NKUA / Chairman of 2nd Psychiatry Dept., ATTIKON University General Hospital*

11:25-11:45 **Coffee Break**

11:45-13:00 **Panel 2: Marine & Maritime Robotics**

Panel Moderator:

Gregory **Yovanof**, *Executive Manager, HERON, Athena RC*

Panelists:

- Dimitrios **Kottas**, *Founder & CEO, Delian Alliance Industries*
- Nikolaos **Tsounis**, *Admiral (Ret.), Maritime Technology Innovative Solutions*
- Spyridon **Volonakis**, *CEO, Maresco*

13:00-14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00-15:15 **Panel 3: Field, Space, and Service Robotics for Greece**

Panel Moderator:

Evangelos **Papadopoulos**, *Professor NTUA, HERON Deputy Director, Athena RC*

Panelists:

- Panagiotis **Andrianopoulos**, *PwC partner*
- Evangelos **Gizelis**, *CEO, Gizelis Robotics*
- Leonidas **Manousakis**, *Hellenic Centre for Marine Research*
- Dimitris **Stefanakis**, *President & Co-Founder, UCANDRONE*
- Vasileios **Papantoniou**, *President of the Hellenic Technology of Robotics*

15:15-15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45-17:00 **Panel 4: National Reforms**

Panel Moderator:

Vasileia **Filidou**, *Head of Strategy & Development, Athena RC*

Panelists:

- Vasilis **Karkatzounis**, *Special Secretary for AI and Data Governance, Ministry of Digital Governance*
- Antony **Cassano**, *Business Development & Innovation Director at Uni Systems*
- Vassilis **Pitsikalis**, *Founder & Chief Science Officer, Deeplab*
- Evangelia **Sofouli**, *Head of the Research & Technology Bodies Supervision Directorate, GSRI, Ministry of Development*

17:00-17:30 **Closing**