

Press Release

EARLYBIRD LEADS 2 MILLION EUR SEED FUNDING ROUND FOR GERMAN STARTUP ENERGY ROBOTICS

- Darmstadt-based startup brings forth first commercially available software for mobile AI-based robotics solutions.
- Investment enables Energy Robotics to develop SaaS solutions, expand product portfolio towards platform economy, and robots-a-a-service.
- Energy Robotics will shape cross-industry transformations with autonomous and intelligent robots.

Berlin, January 12, 2021 – [Energy Robotics](#), a leading developer of software solutions for mobile inspection robots, has received 2 million EUR in seed funding. Earlybird led this round, alongside other prominent business angels. The new investment enables the Darmstadt-based team to further develop their software-as-a-service (SaaS) solution and expand their product portfolio towards a platform economy and robots-as-a-service model.

Energy Robotics offers the first commercially available software platform that brings together a hardware-independent robot operating system, cloud-based fleet management, and AI-driven data analysis for industrial applications. The company is now at the forefront of shaping a transformation triggered by autonomous, intelligent robots. The robots are used for remote inspection and monitoring, especially in industries with harsh and demanding environments such as the oil, gas and petrochemical industries, but also increasingly in the energy and security industries. The company relies on a SaaS model to do this, offering its software solution and associated IT infrastructure along with hardware from various third-party vendors.

With the entry of a number of top tier investors, Energy Robotics is taking the next step in its brief history. In addition to Earlybird as a European technology investor who led first financing rounds in billion-dollar companies such as UiPath, N26 and Peak Games, further investors are participating: multi-supervisory board member Dr. Paul Achleitner, former CEO of Austrian oil company OMV Dr. Gerhard Roiss, and Martin Klässner, e-mobility expert and CEO of has-to-be GmbH. Business angel and serial entrepreneur, Andrej Henkler, known for his early investments in companies such as Palantir, is also among the new investors.

Earlybird sees great potential in the Darmstadt-based start-up: "The perfectly-coordinated founding team of Energy Robotics combines decades of experience and leading expertise in intelligent autonomous software for mobile robots with visionary entrepreneurship and a "doer" mentality," says Dr. Andre Retterath, Principal at Earlybird. He adds: "The company is growing fast - despite its early stage; the team has already been able to win numerous pilot and license customers such as Shell, Dow Chemical, E.ON and Merck. We are firmly convinced of Energy Robotics' hardware-independent software approach. It allows the start-up to assemble the best possible fleet of mobile autonomous robots from various third-party vendors for a variety of customer use cases, controlling everything through a common interface and thus scaling optimally at the data processing level."

Marc Dassler, Co-Founder and CEO of Energy Robotics comments, "We see our solution as a platform for autonomous remote inspection and monitoring. Our goal is to offer customers our software in combination with the hardware they require, and the robot best suited to their specific use case. In doing so, the platform not only combines different types of robots, but at the same time enables the integration of a variety of apps to perform AI-based analysis of the collected data." Regarding the fresh funds, he adds: "With the newly acquired capital, we are now in a position to grow further and expand our offering and partner network. We are therefore very pleased to have Earlybird and the other investors on our side who see our vision as forward-looking and are promoting it accordingly. For us, it is clear: autonomous robots will significantly change the coming decade, and we are at the forefront of shaping this change."

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Despite its relatively short history, Energy Robotics can already look back on remarkable milestones. The company expanded its network through pilot projects with well-known robot manufacturer, Boston Dynamics, and with the Merck pharmaceutical group. In addition to successfully completing this financing round, the founding team around Dr. Stefan Kohlbrecher, Dr. Alberto Romay, Dr. Dorian Scholz, Marc Dassler and Prof. Dr. Oskar von Stryk has won numerous awards over the past 15 years, including the ARGOS Challenge (2017), the WRS Plant Disaster Prevention Challenge (2018), various disciplines of the RoboCup World Championship (several times, most recently in 2019) and the E.ON Startup Challenge (2020).

About Earlybird

Earlybird is a venture capital investor focused on European technology companies. Founded in 1997, Earlybird invests in all growth and development phases of a company. Amongst the most experienced venture investors in Europe, Earlybird offers its portfolio companies not only financial resources, but also strategic and operational support as well as access to an international network and capital markets. Earlybird manages different funds with a focus on digital technologies in Eastern and Western Europe as well as healthcare technologies. With EUR 1.5 billion under management, seven IPOs and 30 trade sales, Earlybird is one of the most successful venture capital firms in Europe.

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About Energy Robotics

Founded in 2019 as a spin-off of Darmstadt University of Technology, Energy Robotics is a pioneer of mobile robots for autonomous inspection of industrial facilities. The startup offers the first commercially available software platform that brings together a hardware-independent robot operating system, cloud-based fleet management and AI-driven data analytics for industrial applications.

Energy Robotics software-equipped mobile robots are used for remote inspection and monitoring in demanding environments such as the oil & gas, petrochemical, security and energy industries. 20 robots with a total of more than 20,000 operating hours are already in operation on four continents.

Energy Robotics originated at TU Darmstadt through the EXIST research transfer program of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

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