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THE NATIONAL
ROBOTARIUM
PEOPLE CENTRED :: INTELLIGENCE DRIVEN

SPOTLIGHT ON:: CEO Stewart Miller in 'Big Interview'

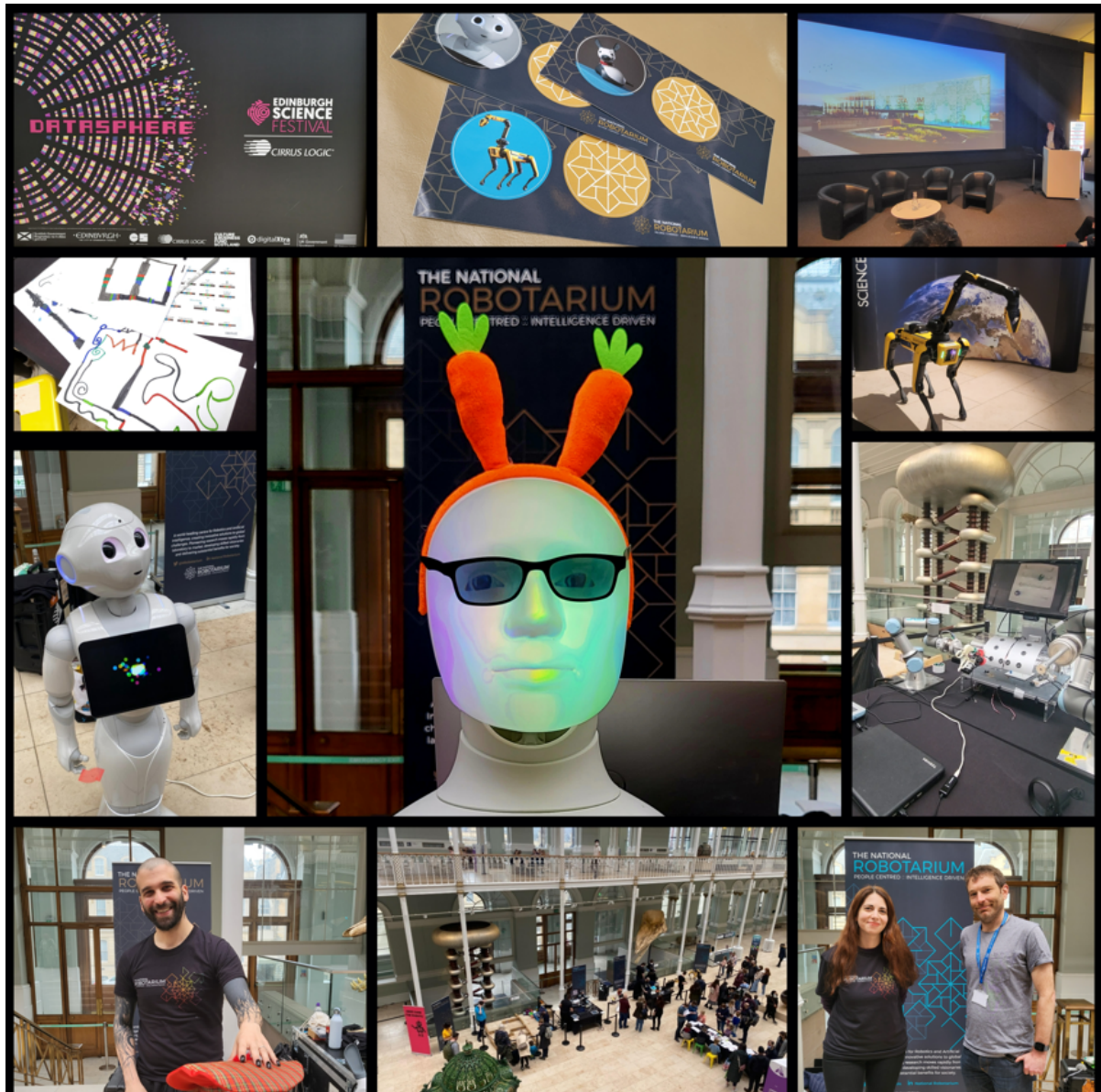


Image credit: Lisa Ferguson for The Scotsman

The National Robotarium's Chief Executive Officer, Stewart Miller, was featured in Scotland on Sunday's **Big Interview** on 10 April. The monthly feature is well-known for its discussions with high-profile figures from business and technology in Scotland.

In the piece, Stewart shared his vision for the future of the multimillion-pound facility - opening in September this year - and how its research into improving healthcare, transport, and the energy sectors using robotics and AI is already benefitting society.

National Robotarium at the Edinburgh Science Festival



Staff and researchers from Heriot-Watt University and the University of Edinburgh showcased the National Robotarium with a variety of activities, exhibits and robot demos at the National Museum of Scotland, part of the 2022 Edinburgh Science Festival.

From 13-14 April, the teams were visited by over 1000 museum-goers who flocked to enjoy the activities at **DataSphere**, including computer-coded illustrations, a VR robot surgery training tool, a remote-control navigation game, and robotics stroke rehabilitation exercises led by PAL-bot Pepper.

On the evening of 14 April, the Museum hosted an evening event, '**How Robots will help us in the future**', which included talks from CEO Stewart

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front of an avid crowd of evening visitors.

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NEWS ROUNDUP



Co-academic lead Professor Helen Hastie on the National Robotarium's potential for data in Scotland. She featured in a special supplement in **The Scotsman**, which spoke to key figures from the Data-Driven Innovation initiative about the region's progress in becoming Scotland's Data Capital.



Professor Yvan Petillot, co-academic lead at the National Robotarium, authored an article in AI industry magazine The Evolving Enterprise. The think-piece, **Robotic and AI R&D is shaping industry and creating vital jobs for tomorrow**, outlines how robotic and artificial intelligence are changing industry for the better by improving safety, efficiency and creating the jobs of tomorrow.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Professor in Computer Science, Ruth Aylett, confirmed as keynote speaker at Reddit Robotics Showcase. The event, taking place online on 30 and 31 July, will explore and celebrate robotics projects in the Reddit Robotics community. Ruth's talk on the second day of the event will delve into Social Agents and Human Robot Interaction.

Co-academic lead and Professor of Robotics at University of Edinburgh, Professor Sethu Vijayakumar, will appear at the <Dev Talks>/ Expo Conference in June. The event, the largest of its kind for IT professionals and developers in Romania, will examine AI and innovation under the theme **Humanity Reimagined.**



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Q&A

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**Steve McLaren, Chief Operating Officer
National Robotarium**



Welcome to the National Robotarium Steve! What excites you about joining the team?

Thanks very much, I am absolutely delighted to have joined the National Robotarium! This has to be the most exciting role I have taken on in my career, a real opportunity to be part of something that has such significant meaning to society as a whole. And to be a part of it right from the very start is an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

The cultural and educational environment where our facility is established, is second-to-none - we are in an area that nurtures and supports the best academic minds in our field and I am very excited to be able to work with and learn from those experts on a daily basis.

Add to all of that, the amazing surroundings, a state-of-the-art building to operate from and a fantastic team to work with makes it the most exciting role I could have wished for.

What is your background and what experience do you bring to this new role?

helicopter engineer due to a love and fascination with all things that fly, in particular helicopters appear to defy all logic when it comes to flight!

I served on a number of operational units during my long career as an engineer but also developed an interest in mathematics and computer science, which led me into a number of data-oriented roles during my service. I then left the Navy and took up a number of aircraft service delivery roles within **Leonardo**, including managing complex multi-million pound support contracts, technical support, management of engineering facilities and front line operational support on military bases.

An interim period with General Electric also gave me great experience with the exploitation of digital tools in the creation of a digital enterprise that focused on maximising product efficiency, engines, avionics etc.

I feel that having been responsible for complex financial contracts, customer-focused services, and digital enterprise development, I have a good deal of experience across the entire end-to-end lifecycle of products, as well as all of the cross-functional support that an enterprise needs to deliver.

I will certainly look to draw on all of that experience to help make the National Robotarium a success!

As Chief Operating Officer, what will be your main areas of focus?

My focus is going to be customer first and making sure they get an outstanding service and experience from the National Robotarium.

Our vision is to be completely digitally-enabled throughout whilst ensuring our processes are simple and effective. That applies to how we engage outwardly with people and how we manage activity and partnerships through joint projects. It's vital that we are clear, transparent and trustworthy at all times, ensuring we demonstrate value for money and always deliver quality outcomes on time.

I'll also be looking to work closely with all of our sponsors and stakeholders with the same values to ensure that we are collaborative at all times. In order to achieve all of this I will be working with the team as we develop our core operating themes and processes.

Underpinning all of this will be a core digital backbone. I'll be working closely with our digital and IT experts to design and create our National Robotarium digitally enabled enterprise.

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I think we are globally significant as we are looking to address problems for the overall good of society, on a global scale. By advancing the research and application of robotics and AI, we can automate the predictable, help keep people safe, and deliver better outcomes for healthcare, manufacturing, labour markets and quality of life.

The UK is renowned for innovation and has a thriving research and development culture. I see the National Robotarium becoming a shining example of these values ensuring that we attract partners and investment from across the globe.

GROWING OUR NETWORK

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The National Robotarium was thrilled to participate in Robosoft 2022. The 5th IEEE-RAS International Conference on Soft Robotics, chaired by co-academic lead Dr Adam Stokes, ran from 4-8 April and explored 'Soft Robotics for the Planet'. As diamond event sponsors, the National Robotarium featured prominently on its virtual exhibition platform and Chief Executive Stewart Miller delivered a keynote speech at the closing ceremony.



Team members from our Assisted Living research theme attended the Scottish Care Home Conference and Exhibition. The conference focuses on the role of care home services in helping individuals remain connected to their communities. Researchers hosted an insight session, demonstrating the role of technology and robots in delivering care, showcasing modular robot Robobrico and companion 'soft' robot Maah.

LATEST JOBS



We are currently recruiting for a number of exciting roles at the National Robotarium.

Current vacancies include:

- **Head of Robotics**
- **Senior Engineer**
- **Engineer** (multiple posts available)
- **Technician** (multiple posts available)

Click on the links above to find out more and apply.

Closing date for all vacancies is **Sunday 12 June**.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- **RadarSLAM: A robust simultaneous localization and mapping system for all weather conditions** - The International Journal of Robotics Research.
 - **Hand-impedance measurements with robots during laparoscopy training** - Science Direct.
 - **Robust induced ℓ_2 - ℓ_∞ optimal control of discrete-time systems having magnitude and rate-bounded actuators.** Science Direct.
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If your organisation would like to get involved in the work of the National Robotarium, whether to tackle an industry problem or engage young people in robotics research, we'd love to help!

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