Didactic Bulletin

FESTO

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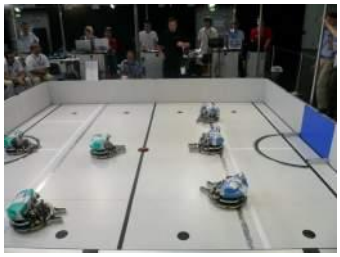
And the winner is: Robotino!

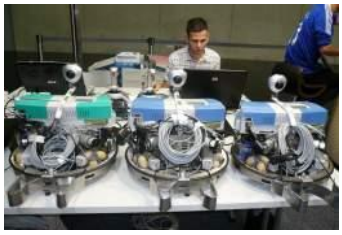
Early in July, 6 universities from Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and Tunisia entered Festo Hockey Challenge Cup (FHCC) which took place at the Robocup in Graz.
The fact that the German team from the University of Osnabruck won against the strong team from Cairo in penalty shootout at the end was great for the German team, but not the outstanding event in the competition.



At last a rugged platform

The most important realisation for the teams was that Robotino® is a first-choice platform for a fast and exacting game. This realisation was essential, enabling the teams to work tirelessly. All members ultimately agreed: “It was like playing myself.”

Robotino® dribbled the puck across the arena at over 10 km/h and survived the roughest body checks. None of the Robots complained about a sensor breakdown or cracked chassis!



Speed is not enough

The competition rules limit the Robot’s diameter and height. Equal opportunities were also given for all teams by the prescribed dribbling device. The teams are allowed to create applications for Robotino® in commonly-used programming languages. They were also free to attach new sensors or choose their strategy.

In addition to ruggedness and speed Robotino offers the required freedom in mechanical and electrical interfaces. It was fascinating see how the teams tuned and developed their platforms overnight, to win exceptional advantages over the other teams.

At first it seemed the team from Osnabruck had some benefits with their 360° panorama view cam. But with incredible creativity with fierce determination – and a low budget – the Hungarian Hockey Team from Budapest defied them. They beat the other teams with their enthusiasm and ingenuity.

You’ll find a lot of video on Youtube, showing how realistically the Robotino® played Hockey. The time from the start whistle to a gaol was sometimes just 4 seconds: Goal!

Bright prospects

If the FHCC becomes a regular event at the annual Robocup competition, we can look forward to interesting developments in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Mechatronics – in exciting, gripping competitions.

Info:
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