

Rodney Brooks

Rodney Brooks is the Panasonic Professor of Robotics (Emeritus) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and founder, chairman and chief technology officer of Heartland Robotics in Boston. He was a co-founder of iRobot (nasdaq: IRBT) and held various offices in the company, including chairman and chief technology officer from 1990 to 2011. At MIT he was the director first of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, and then of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory from 1997 to 2007. His undergraduate degrees are in mathematics from Australia, and his doctorate is in computer science from Stanford University. His research has spanned many areas of computer vision, robotics, and artificial life, and there are over eight million deployed robots based on his work. His newest company aims to revitalize manufacturing through new sorts of industrial robots that ordinary line workers can use directly, increasing their productivity by offloading simple cases of simple tasks.