

Johannes Betz – Vision Statement DGR for Board Member Application

My vision is to foster a globally connected German robotics community that accelerates scientific innovation in all robotics disciplines. As a DGR Board member, my number one goal is to strengthen the visibility of the German robotics research community on various levels:

First, I want to reduce the fragmentation between universities, research institutes, individual robotics subfields, and regional networks by helping institutions identify complementary expertise and form larger collaborative initiatives.

Second, I want to give German robotics a stronger collective voice with funding agencies, ministries, and policymakers by developing a unified community position on research infrastructure and research funding. I will be a strong advocate for long-term investment in robotics rather than only short-term topic-driven funding programs.

Third, I want to foster stronger collaboration between academia and industry to ensure that cutting-edge research from the German robotics community directly impacts industry and society. Within the DGR, I want to bring startups, SMEs, established robotics companies, and academic researchers together and foster new initiatives that strengthen industry-academic partnerships & industry presence.

I will achieve this because my core values are reliability, integrity, and mentorship, with the goal of empowering young researchers. Within my new role as a DGR board member, I want to give the next generation a strong voice. This means establishing meaningful representation of PhD students, postdocs, junior group leaders, and young professors in the society and ensuring leadership does not become concentrated among a small number of established institutions.

I fully understand the responsibilities of serving as a DGR board member. I am committed to attending all board meetings and will carry out my duties professionally and collaboratively. With my prior experience in IEEE leadership roles at RAS and ITSS, I am confident in my ability to contribute meaningfully to the DGR's future success.