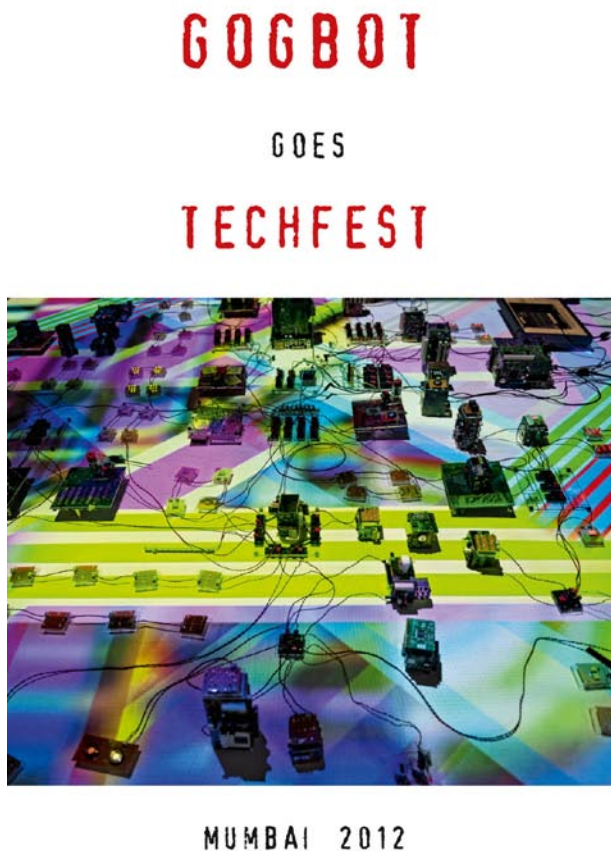


6 tm 8 januari 2012 vond Techfest plaats, volgens de organisatie het grootste technologie event van Azië, ondersteund door UNESCO en met deelnemers uit diverse landen.



GOGBOT festival Art Music Technology Enschede NL

GOGBOT artists Viola van Alphen, Edwin Dertien, Kees de Groot, Kees Klaassen and Anton Stamhuis travelled to Mumbai, to present a selection of works at TECHFEST 2012.

TECHFEST 2012 Januari 6-7-8 Mumbai, India
Asia's Largest Science, Technology and Technical Festival.

Techfest, an independent body run by students of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, is the pioneer of science and technology festivals in India. It is Asia's largest annual science and technology festival. Apart from this, it has been involved in taking many path breaking initiatives to promote eco-friendly technology and revolutionise the present day Indian society. Techfest started in 1998 with the aim of providing a platform for students to showcase their talents in the field of science and technology and in the short period of 15 years has grown to become Asia's largest festival of its kind. The last few editions of Techfest have seen more than 85,000 participants from more than 2100 colleges across India along with teams from countries like the USA, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Nepal, Iran, Bangladesh, SriLanka, UAE, Denmark, Venezuela and Canada. Apart from student involvement, Techfest 2011 also saw more than 6,000 faculty members and corporate executives.

www.techfest.org

GOGBOT kunstenaars bij Techfest in Mumbai.

5 Nederlandse kunstenaars zijn uitgenodigd om binnenkort namens GOGBOT werk te presenteren bij Techfest, het grootste technologie festival van Azië, begunstigd door UNESCO, in de miljoenenstad Mumbai, India. Techfest toont de nieuwste ontwikkelingen op het gebied van robotica, technologie en mediakunst, en vindt plaats op de campus van de Universiteit van Mumbai. GOGBOT organisatoren en mediakunstenaars Kees de Groot en Viola van Alphen tonen highlights van het jaarlijkse festival uit Enschede. Kunstenaar en uitvinder Edwin Dertien, verbonden aan de Universiteit Twente, toont zijn lopende robots, evaluerend uit een lasercutting incubator. Metaalkunstenaar Kees Klaassen en programmeur Anton Stamhuis presenteren hun interactieve robotarmen en kruipende slangen in Mumbai. India is een land in overgang van derde wereldland naar eerste wereldnatie, met een emerging economie in de hoogste versnelling, o.a. gebaseerd (ruimte)technologie, maar ook op energiewinning, plasmatechnologie, remote sensing en nanotechnologie.

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www.techfest.org

Hoe zag het er daadwerkelijk uit:

Er waren 2 zeer grote tenten met internationale presentaties. Beurs-achtig kregen wij een aantal tafels met ophangborden toegewezen. Ook kregen we 2 studenten die alles voor ons regelden, van batterijtjes, extra poster-prints, handouts, extra verlichting, extra stroompunten, etc etc. Deze studenten hebben wij ook geïnstrueerd dat het voor de gemeente Enschede bv belangrijk was dat Enschede zich als aantrekkelijke stad profileerde voor Indiaase partners/bedrijven en om te netwerken. En voor de ambassade bv dat er economische output was, zodat de directeuren van bedrijven liefst

persoonlijk aan ons worden voorgesteld, en pers ook direct onze kant op werd geleid, met voorrang op bv de school-klassen.



Cultuurverschil:

In het begin waren er wat onduidelijkheden mbt hotels. Er was sprake dat we in het gastenhuis op de Campus enkele dagen konden verblijven, maar op de eerste aankomstdag bleek dat de Decaan de gastenhuisen voor andere gasten had gereserveerd. Eerst zou er sprake zijn van een eigen bijdrage vanuit ons, daarna bleek dat we naar een hotel gebracht werden, omringd door nog hogere vuilnisbelten. We zijn 5 keer verhuisd van hotel+kamers, en uiteindelijk hebben we op allerlei verschillende plaatsen geslapen. We zagen dit ook als culturele ontdekkingstocht. Veel Indiëers, vooral taxichauffeurs zeggen “ ja, ja”, maar doen “ nee, nee”. Op een avond kwamen we aan in het Metro hotel, en bleek, ondanks afspraak, onze kamer en het hele hotel ineens “ fully booked” en moest dat opgelost worden, door allerlei druk-doende Indiëers. We zijn er nog niet helemaal uit of streng zijn de oplossing is, sowieso rustig blijven, alles meermaals controleren en alles zo positief mogelijk nemen, leidde tot een goede, werkbare situatie in een heerlijk land, dat qua eten, kleuren, positieve visie op leven, ook een zeer positieve indruk op ons heeft achtergelaten.

Presentaties op de IIT Campus tijdens Techfest:

Elke 3 tot 5 minuten schoof er een nieuwe groep van ca 20 tot 30 Indiëers binnen die zich verdrongen om de presentatie mee te maken. Er werden erg veel technische en toekomst-gerichte vragen gesteld. De presentators (Edwin, Kees, Anton) waren continue bezig met presenteren en vragen beantwoorden. Het publiek vertoonde diepe interesse in de vertoonde projecten.

Er stonden buiten rijen die ruim 2-3 uur lang waren, en ons deden denken aan de Efteling, maar dan in de brandende Indiaase zon.



Efteling-achtige wachtrijen, uren en uren in de brandende zon..

De laatste dag liet robot bouwer Edwin Dertien zijn robotje van 20cm buiten rondlopen, en binnen 10 seconden stonden er 10 mensen omheen, binnen 30 seconden een hele menigte van ruim 50 mensen, enthousiast kijkend en zwaaiend om nog meer vrienden hierheen te halen, filmend met hun smartphones/camera's.

Opvallend vonden we ook dat promotiematerialen, flyers, handouts, de eerste dag, **de eerste 5 minuten**, al volledig meegenomen waren door de bezoekers. Gelukkig hadden we niet alles neergelegd, dus begonnen we met gericht uitdelen. De honger naar kennis leek enorm. We waren ook erg onder de indruk van de kwaliteiten van India als we bv kijken naar de special effects studio's van Bollywood,

technische helpdesks, ict outsourcing naar India, etc. We zagen een groot, emerging land, met vele kansen, veel groei, veel intelligentie, bescheiden inborst, marketing gericht op good-karma, met een aantal verbeterpunten op gebied van infrastructuur, en grote ontwikkeling ook hierin.



Outcomes:

Bezoek Edwin Dertien aan Indiase bedrijven over toekomstige opdrachten (zie verslag Edwin Dertien).

Contacten Kees en Anton met diverse andere robotica bouwers, robotica event organisatoren, etc. Kees Klaassen ontving een uitnodiging voor een volgend robotica event in India, enkele weken na Techfest.

Zichtbaarheid Nederland in het internationale netwerk.

Publicaties in Times of India, Yourstory, online blogs, media.

Versteviging en uitbreiding connecties met o.a. de hoofdspreker van het festival: Aubrey de Grey, verbonden aan Cambridge en bezig met life-extention, die GGOBOT aanbood om op zijn kosten een Nederlands event te organiseren in Japan. Tevens met dr. rer. soc. Miriam Leis, woonde kort in Nederland en Dusseldorf en houdt nu kantoor in Mumbai en Tokyo, gespecialiseerd in cross culturele activiteiten en samenwerking, kent in India en Japan goed de weg op gebied van wetenschap, kunst en financiële mogelijkheden.

Capgemini contacten gelegd, directeur ontmoet, avond “geborreld” met team om hem heen, gesproken over manieren van datamining en SAP en Cognos software, team gebaseerd in Mumbai, Parijs en Chicago (zakelijk directeur van GGOBOT festival is tevens freelance bedrijfsconsultant voor diverse Nederlandse bedrijven, op gebied van nieuwe media, maar ook processmanagement, datamining, ict, etc).

Versteviging contacten met Japan Media Arts festival: presentatie in dezelfde ruimte. Overleg over toekomstige intensievere samenwerking: uitwisseling kunstenaars. De organisatie van Japan Media Arts Festival is vorig jaar overgedragen aan een andere organisatie, het was goed om deze mensen voor het eerst nu persoonlijk te ontmoeten. GGOBOT is immers 1 van de meest belanghebbende media art festivals van Nederland (en ook op wereldniveau speelt zij mee als speler), en Japan Media Arts Festival wordt ook regelmatig als zeer innovatief



aangeprezen in het discours (GGOBOT won in 2011 de prijs als meest innovatieve festival van Nederland).

Contact gelegd met internationale robotica kunstenaars/wetenschappers o.a. uit Frankrijk, Australie en Amerika, voor toekomstige presentaties bij GGOBOT, samenwerking met Universiteit Twente, en evt toekomstige uitwisselingen naar Australie.

Contact gelegd met Spaanse kunstenaar en Spaanse consulaat.

Edwin Dertien,

zie bijlage. (PDF)

Kees Klaassen en Anton Stamhuis

Kees Klaassen en Anton Stamhuis hebben een blog bijgehouden van hun bezoek aan India:

<http://fullformfreedom.cc/?p=175>

India, the conclusion.

Posted on February 22, 2012 by vIDo

First of all, let me say sorry for taking so long to post an update. It's been a busy few weeks back home with some smaller projects and preparing for a few bigger ones but more on that later. For now let us turn back the clock to Thursday the 6th of January.



Anton and one of the guys from Gray Orange Robotics working on the code

After many hours spent at the airport and leaving a good amount of money behind we got our creatures back from customs. Right after we got back from the airport with our flight-case safely in our hands we started work on the de-bugging we had planned to do in the first three days there. Mechanically everything seemed good enough but in the electronics department there were a few complications. I worked late in to the night trying to get it all to work, luckily the kind people of Gray Orange Robotics (one of the fellow exhibitors, from India) Offered to help and together we managed to get it all working to an exactable level. At four in the morning and we came to two conclusions, one: "We are tired and need to go to bed.", two: "We don't have a place to sleep yet". Again the guys from Gray Orange Robotics came to save the day. They somehow got two two-person rooms on campus from the organization, so we had two beds to crash on for the rest of the Festival.



The line in front of the main exhibition area.

The next morning, the first day of the festival, we got up early as the festival started at half past eight and we wanted some time to have a last look at the mechanics. The way the rest of the festival went is best illustrated by the picture to the left, taken on the second day. Due to the big amount of people we didn't really get to letting our mechanical monster ride around a whole lot so we kept it to giving a small demonstrations at our table, most of the times surrounded by multiple layers of Indian people. Luckily when things really got to crowded we had a big red button within arm's reach to activate the second sculpture we brought with us, with its two loud power drill motors and wonderful movements our first and smaller tentacle "Looking for Life" managed to distract the crowds long enough for us to take a breath.



Anton taking a ride in E.D.W.A.R.D.

In the end we didn't get to see a whole lot of the festival ourselves, being at our table most of the day. On the first day we did get to go to one of the evening shows (a demonstration by a group of free runners and a 3-D projection mapping show performed by 'Born Digital', another Dutch team together with 'Nota Bene Visual' from Turkey). On the second day we didn't go to any of the other events on campus but we did meet up with some of the other exhibitors namely the the university of Plymouth Robot Football team and the group from the university of Adelaide, Australia. Who invited us to have dinner at their hotel about four blocks away from the main gate of the IIT. Upon arriving at their hotel we found out that they were staying in one of the most luxurious hotels in Bombay and we spent the

rest of the evening dining and talking in the most sumptuous surroundings any of us had ever been. A private cocktail chef at our table and people handing you towels after washing your hands in the restroom. During this night out the people from the university of Adelaide even invited us to have a ride in their project (E.D.W.A.R.D.) the next day. We returned back to campus late that night only to directly go to our room and go to bed. The next morning (the last day of the festival) we got up early again to meet up with the people from the university of Adelaide and have a go in their contraption. This was also the last day for me (Anton) as I had to catch my flight at 1AM the next morning. Kees had Decided to stay another week to actually see Bombay and get a real taste of the culture and I don't blame him, if it wasn't for school I'd had done the same.

Now, more than a month later we look back on a hectic trip, but certainly the experience of a lifetime. Where we made a few new friends and made some good contacts, maybe for a project in the future.

To end this wall of text I'd like to give a shout out to our sponsors: the cultural breeding ground R10 Zwolle, Planet Art, Gemeente Enschede and the Dutch embassy in Bombay.

Uitnodigingen voor festivals:

- Invitation from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur to display an exhibition at Kshitij 2012, begin januari verstuurt vanaf exhibitions2012@ktj.in . niet gedaan vanwege korte termijn, wel contact gehouden.

- invitation: Techkriti'12, the annual technical and entrepreneurial festival of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, niet gedaan omdat ik thuis mijn bedrijfje niet zo lang alleen kan laten.

- invitation: annual technical festival Cognizance 2012: van cognizance2012exhibitions@gmail.com niet gedaan omdat ik thuis mijn bedrijfje niet zo lang alleen kan laten.

- verder ben ik nog mondeling uitgenodigd door het japan media arts festival om mij in te schrijven. website <http://plaza.bunka.go.jp/english/>

van de eerste drie kan ik de mailcorrespondentie doormailen, dit zijn lange mails. over een paar maanden hoop ik dit contact weer op te pakken om te kijken of ik in 2013 wel tijd vrij kan maken.

Bedrijven, instituten en kunstenaars.

-shimurabros met de instalatie xraytrain uit japan. we hadden een klik omdat ik met mijn nieuwe stuk ook bezig ben met mri scans shimurabros@boomboomfilm.com, T+81(0)5055324626
shimurabros.com

-Vikas Dev, Mechanical research engineer van Grey & Orange Robotics, +918802025299,
vikas@greyorangerobotics.com, <http://www.greyorangerobotics.com/> : hebben ons tijdens het Festival geholpen met technische problemen. gebruiken de zelfde aansturingstechnologie als ons.

-viva les robots, info@vivelesrobots-education.dk, www.vivelesrobots-education.dk, toffe kuntenaars die ook robotcreatures maken.

-<http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/pages/view.asp?page=38504> universitair robotvoetbal team uit engeland. tijdens het festival hebben we elkaar geholpen.

-The University of Adelaide, <http://sites.mecheng.adelaide.edu.au/robotics/> universiteit met zeer geavanceerde robotica projecten en voertuigen. een korte beschrijving van hun projecten en onze ervaringen vind je op onze blog <http://fullformfreedom.cc/?p=175>.

- <http://www.borndigital.nu/> & <http://notabenevisual.com/> , een samenwerkingsproject van twee projectiekunstenars(3d beamer e.d.) één van deze kunstenars kwam uit Nederland dus dat schiep direct een band.

Media:

BYTES & BOLTS

Mahafred Irani visits Techfest 2012 at IIT Powai and comes back impressed by the international robots on display



This year, visitors to IIT Bombay's annual Techfest witnessed the largest number of automaton—from countries like the UK, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Sweden and Australia—that have ever visited the campus. From bots that can play a gentleman's game of cricket to those that can wrestle another into submission, they're all here. And among the myriad were the versatile humanoid Nao and loyal robotic dog Genio SD. The former is the first-ever robo with emotions, capable of forming bonds with people who treat it kindly, while the latter—modelled to resemble a bull terrier—can do yoga, headstands, sit-ups, practise Taekwondo and even dance. Of course, it also does things that regular dogs do like wagging its tail and barking...



SOCCER CHAMPS!

Various spectators surround a miniature football field made from green felt. They watch as an aluminium bot is placed on the turf, only to chase after a plastic ball and kick it into a wooden goal. Supervising the play are members of team 'TNT'—Jonas and Bertno Timmermans, creators of the automation and two-time world robot soccer champions. As soon as the demo ends, young on-lookers swear the German duo. "How did it kick the ball?" "What sensors have you used?" "What is its name?" they ask. "The Timmermans—no strangers to international fame—look more than pleased to field the questions. Besides their world titles, the team also bears the distinction of being undefeated in 10 consecutive games in Europe. "The robot is equipped with infrared sensors to detect the ball and ultrasonic range finders to detect its own position on the field," says Jonas, who started building bots at the age of 18 after learning how to on the Internet. "Our first bot was made from a Lego NXT kit; we later started building the parts ourselves," says Bertno, who handles the electronics of their robot, while his sibling manages the mechanics. To take part in soccer tournaments, participants have to build two bots, that alternatingly—as the game progresses—take on the roles of goal keeper and goal scorer. The Timmermans inform. Each of TNT's bots weighs 2.5 kg and is 22 cms wide. At its base are three omni-directional wheels and a magnetic kicking device. Its body is made up of a circuit board that has been soldered with 300 parts including two processors. Jonas, who intends to continue improving the bots says, "The aim of robot soccer is to create humanoid robots that are intelligent and agile enough to play soccer with humans in the near future."



IS IT A SNAKE, IS IT AN ELEPHANT TRUNK?

Visitors press a large red button and watch a robotic tentacle twist in the air. Some compare it to an elephant trunk, some think it's a giant moving breakfast. Others like to believe it's a hissing python. At the exhibit by the Pull Form Freedom Artists Collective, Kees Klaassen and Anton Stammbuis demo their work for onlookers. "We've called this installation 'Looking For Life' as we wanted people to interpret it as anything they wanted it to be," they say. Klaassen, the main artist behind the installation, showcases another crawling sculpture that looks like a lit-up snake, but is actually a 1.5-metre-long mechanical contraption with two arms built out of acrylic discs connected to each other using aluminium joints. "A single farmer in Netherlands can now feed 1,000 people with the help of robots that help in labour-intensive tasks," he says. "I believe such robots will become really popular all over the world in the next few years."



TINY "WHIRRY BIRD" QUADCOPTER

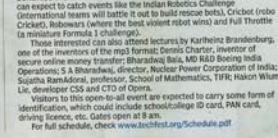
If you thought the quadcopter in *Three Idiots* was small, you should have seen the one flying at Techfest. The tiny flying circuit board looked slightly larger than an average insect, but had enough going for it to entertain crowds who watched its flight in amazement. Electrical engineers Arman Taheri, Tobias Antonsson and Marcus Eliasson wanted to build a flying machine that they could compete indoors. "We wanted to use minimal mechanics and it had to be tiny too. So we thought of making a printed circuit board (PCB) fly by adding propellers and motors to it," Taheri says. A CPU on the PCB helps the quadcopter make more than 200 adjustments per second by using info from its 3-axis accelerometer and two gyros. Eliasson uses a remote to control the unstable quadcopter as it flies around the exhibition area. And because of its low weight—just zips—a gentle breeze is enough to cause turbulence. Noticing the quadcopter tremble due to paper drafts hit on it, "I tried to stabilize it," he jokes. So far, the Swedes, who call themselves Daedalus Projects, have spent about 1,000 hours on the prototype. "We would stay back in office and use the free time to calculate the best movement and speed to intercept a ball during a match. "Robot football is clearly an intelligent game that brings together many engineering disciplines including vision, mechanics, electronics, robotics and artificial intelligence into a coherent whole," its creators say. It is an educational tool for students who have been improving the bots for five years now. This is the sixth version, says Arman Griffiths, a research assistant at the University. He plans to complete the various parts by the end of the year.

ROBO ATHLETES

A smiling humanoid robot with white sneakers walks along a miniature track. Its designers say, "It's an athlete and the current world sprinting champion." The automaton built by students of the University of Plymouth, UK, also enjoys playing football. "We just won the gold medal at the FIRA (Federation of International Robot Soccer Association)... And at 11th time in the fall, this is the fastest robot in the world," says Tobias Antonsson. Fully autonomous, the bots built by the university students are capable of distinguishing between teammates, tracking a football and even scoring goals. They're programmed to do so with the help of open-source software—developed and improved by the university's students each year—that interprets information captured by the bot's cameras to calculate the best movement and speed to intercept a ball during a match. "Robot football is clearly an intelligent game that brings together many engineering disciplines including vision, mechanics, electronics, robotics and artificial intelligence into a coherent whole," its creators say. It is an educational tool for students who have been improving the bots for five years now. This is the sixth version, says Arman Griffiths, a research assistant at the University. He plans to complete the various parts by the end of the year.

ZOE, THE ROBOTIC SPIDER

A robotic white spider crawls on six acrylic legs towards a visitor's foot. The spider's movement is coupled with an insect-like sound—make it seem almost eerie. "This is the 15th version of Zoe. We want to make it stronger and bigger and put just a systematic improvement. Over time as he rushes once again to lift up a crawling Zoe. Zoe, the robotic spider, was created by the Austrian roboticist Nikl Passath. The bots have already visited various art festivals in Europe and Brazil—and its creator likes to shoot pictures and videos of the creatures in various natural environments around the world. "I want it to be a robot tourist," Passath writes on his web site. "Inspired by the biological motion by letting it run around in the wild... Shooting pictures and videos of this machine in nature triggers a more emotional view... The bots are being promoted by Vive



SMART MONEY

Low-yielding life covers don't amount to wealth creation

Long-term money growth depends on instruments low on cost and high on flexibility, advises financial planner Gaurav Mashruwala

"Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of filling a vacuum, it makes one." Benjamin Franklin

I have seen families with a lot of wealth and yet dissatisfied," says Kamal Sheth (36) living and high thinking from his parents. His family had to struggle in the initial years but simple living saw them through. His father never planned finances in a structured manner but always enjoyed in a focused way. His father's teachings of simple living and encouragement to plan finances have placed Kamal, a chartered accountant, on the wealth track (see below).

long run. They also have two and-a-half-year-old daughter Kaashvi.

WHAT IS THE COUPLE SAVING FOR?
(1) They want Rs 12 lakh each for their daughter's education and marriage after 15 and 20 years, respectively. (2) They want Rs 3 lakh to support his parents. (3) For retirement after 18 years, they will need a corpus from which they can draw Rs 6 lakh per annum. They will keep revising these goals based on the inflation level. The couple also aspires to new career every seven years and foreign vacation every three years.

WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?
Cash Flow: Gross yearly inflow from all sources is about Rs 23 lakh. Against this, the outflow is about Rs 12.65 lakh. This includes about Rs 4.42 lakh for savings and

minimum, routine household expenses and EMI for home loan. Only about 15% of the annual take-home pay is being utilised to service the home loan EMI. Statement of Net Worth: Value of total assets is Rs 1.37 crore. This includes assets worth Rs 1.21 crore for self-consumption in the form of house, jewellery, car and so on. The outstanding home loan liability is only Rs 15.23 lakh. Contingency Fund: Against the monthly minimum expense of Rs 1.06 lakh—which includes home loan EMI and insurance premium—the family has Rs 1.48 crore in liquid assets. Health & Life Insurance: There is Rs 1.37 crore each for self, spouse and parents through an independent policy besides, Kamal's employer has provided for a family floater plan of Rs 5 lakh. Life cover: Kamal has Rs 1.48 crore in term policies. Out of this, 30 policies are investment-oriented. There is one term plan of Rs 1 crore. There is also a personal accident plan from the employer. Savings & Investments: Balance in savings account is Rs 10,00,000. In fixed deposits, he has Rs 25,00,000. Health cover is sufficient. Life cover is also sufficient. Borrowing is within permissible limits. A lot of assets are illiquid. Contingency fund is very less. Allocation in equity is less.

WAY AHEAD
Contingency Funds: Build a corpus of Rs 3.20 lakh for contingencies. Out of this, keep Rs 25,000 in the form of cash at home and the rest in a savings bank account linked to a fixed deposit.

PLANNERS' EYE
Considering that it is a joint family, their monthly expenses, excluding EMI and insurance premium, are within control. This ensures a good surplus. However, low-yielding life insurance policies do not help in wealth creation. It is important to note that insurance is for covering financial losses a family may suffer due to the untimely death of one or more earning members of a family. For long-term wealth creation, use instruments which are low on cost and have more flexibility and maneuverability.

Health & Life Insurance: Obtain the maximum possible health cover for parents. Cover for self and spouse is sufficient. However, if you decide to leave the job, obtain an independent health cover.

Continue with life insurance policies issued before 1999-2000. Policies procured post 2000 should be converted to term policies wherever possible. Consider the term plan. Also, obtain an independent health cover.

Borrowings & Loans: Once a fixed contingency fund is created, focus on paying back the home loan. Try and be debt-free in the next three to four years.

11

Messages

PRAYER MEETINGS

Sriya S. Swami
Murti Saswanandanandapuri
Krisis Mumbai



SATSANG • BHAJAN • DHYAN
Friday 13 January, 2012
6:00 pm onwards
THANE(V) SHRIKAI HALL
Sahayog Bldg.,
Opp. Police Stn., Lowerwadi
Saturday 14 January, 2012
5:30 pm onwards
JUHU HSK CON, Mandapam
Hare Krishna Land
Sunday 15 January, 2012
3:00 pm onwards
NERUL ASHRAM
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Battle bots slug it out at Techfest

Mahafreed irani | TNN

On the last day of IIT's Techfest, robots battled it out in the grand finales of various contests: Robowars, mini F1 and a maze-solving game.

The fiercest looking automatons were undoubtedly the battle bots of Robowars. The arena saw metal clash with metal as robots of different shapes and sizes, equipped with choppers, blades, hammers and flippers, clashed. The contest's winners, a team from Government Engineering College, Aurangabad, designed their robot for two years. "We won because of our sleek design. The flipper helped us fling the opponent, turning it upside down," said Hemant Chambarhe, who named the robot One-Shot Killer. "We spent about Rs 70,000 to build it."

Jayvis Gonsalves won "the most innovative robot" prize for his Bluetooth-controlled creation. "My robot, Blitzkrieg, is wireless. I didn't have to worry about any wires getting entangled," Gonsalves, a student of Dikshit Junior College, Vile Parle, said.

While the robots were locked in battle, nearby, remote-controlled mini cars were racing on an off-road dirt track full of obstacles. Two participants from Chennai, Sharadh Uday and Riten Sarra, built their car in just four



days. "It is powered by an internal combustion engine and made of aluminium," said Uday.

One of the attractions at Techfest, that drew large numbers of Mumbaiers, and not just students, was a couple of vehicles designed by students of Adelaide University. Called Micycle and Diwheel, their makers called them environment-friendly modes of transport. While Micycle is a stylish self-balancing electric unicycle (a cycle with one wheel), Diwheel, as the name suggests, has two giant wheels, with the rider's seat in between. It has a joystick for navigating and uses regenerative braking to recoup some of the energy lost during the process of stopping.

In another hall, Hakon Wiium Lie, the chief technical officer of Opera (the browser) and inventor of the language CSS, used



EXTREME MACHINES: Electric vehicles Micycle (bottom left) and Diwheel (bottom right). The Sri Lankan team (above left) that won the International Robotics Challenge. Cars (above right) at the starting point of the mini F1 racing contest

to design websites, spoke to a packed audience about his days at CERN, the laboratory that is at present engaged in the search of the Higgs boson, and how the web was created there. Emphasizing the importance of open, or free, data, he said: "In the early days, we Norwegians would have to pay the government to get access to the laws of the country. So one day, we uploaded all the laws on the CERN server, making it freely available to all."

In the convocation hall, autonomous robots were trying to figure out a complex maze. This made the International Robotics Challenge perhaps the most complex contest of them all. Participants watched as the robots found their way in the maze, transporting blocks. The winners were a group of engineering students from Sri Lanka. "We love robotics and were kicked about the con-



test as soon as we got the invite," said Nipuna Illangaratne of the group.

an might live to 1,000

What about overpopulation? What about ageing care being accessible only to the rich? "Did you notice how amusing what you just said

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This man might live to 1,000

Aubrey De Grey
Is No Crank.
The Cambridge
PhD Knocked
IITians Dead
With His Talk
On Immortality
Research

Agniva Banerjee | TNN

When he sees the PDF of this article, Aubrey de Grey will not like the headline. He will absolutely hate it, since he particularly instructed TOI not to give it. His suggestion, sorry, instruction, was: Longevity, a side effect of regenerative medicine.

"Here!" he shouted above the din of the bar a few metres from the IIT's main gate, shoving the pen back into the correspondent's hand. "Write that down... Yes, go on! Write that down," he said in a clipped Cambridge accent that had the hint of a lisp.

Clearly, newspaper headlines are not the strong point of de Grey, a scientist whose research has underlined the need to stop the ageing process in humans, a need that many have questioned, saying what will then be the meaning of being human.

He dismisses such philosophical questions as irrational and unscientific. "Age-



FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH: It is no coincidence that Aubrey De Grey resembles Grigori Rasputin. The atheist doesn't mind being 'immortal', like the mystic. If the science he pioneers makes him so, he would soak in the "1,000-year backlog of knowledge" he has accumulated in his 48 years

Ageing is the lifelong accumulation of molecular and cellular damage throughout the body

ing kills more people every day than any other thing. Yet we do not consider it a disease," he says, his piercing eyes trying to drill the point in. "People don't know about the science. People don't want to think about it. Ageing causes suffering, diseases... Alzheimer's, cancer... We intend to fix them."

The first person plural refers to biogerontologists—scientists who investigate the ageing process. Till four or five years ago, biogerontology, in particular de Grey's research, was not taken seriously by the scientific community. But now, many scientists, businesses and governments have start-

ed seeing sense in it. In 2002-03, De Grey says, he was ignored. In 2003-04, he was ridiculed. "But now I have tacit support. In 2006-08, people recognized I had won the battle. I am now waiting for the tacit support to become active. I am waiting for the people who ignored me to tell me 'we were always with you'."

"You know what? Everybody has been scared of ageing since the time of Gilgamesh. Still, you convince yourself that ageing is good, that it is inevitable, just because you cannot think of doing anything about it. But we must grow up and be rational about ageing."

What about overpopulation? What about ageing cure being accessible only to the rich? "Did you notice how amusing what you just said sounds? On one hand you are worried about overpopulation. On the other you are worried about ageing cure being a preserve of the elite. Aren't those mutually exclusive propositions?" he says in a burst of clarity. But the expression on his face is more of resignation than triumph.

"Most technologies take long to become cheap. It is the responsibly of governments to make them accessible to the majority. Also, governments will save on health budgets if they (subsidize) anti-ageing therapy."

It is difficult to find fault with de Grey's logic. More so when one realizes he is a man of razor sharp intellect. Consider this. He graduated in computer science from Cambridge in 1985, spending the next few years on AI research. He met his future wife, Adelaide Carpenter, in 1990, and the geneticist, 19 years his senior, taught him biology at the dinner table. In 2009, he co-founded the SENS Foundation (Strategies for Engineered Negligible Senescence Foundation) in California to further his research.

"There's a 50% chance anti-ageing cure will be found in my lifetime. But there is a 10% chance that it will not happen in the next 100 years," de Grey says with a scientist's caution. "I know, and I know that I don't know."

He invented MP3, but doesn't download music illegally

Agniva Banerjee | TNN

who spoke at IIT's Techfest on sion of singers at various lo-

piano. Later, I took up the guitar so that I could sing along with people at campfires," he said. "I feel lucky that I could turn my love of music into my profession."

He carries his music in an iPod touch. It is a diverse collection. "except for opera and

Foto op verzoek van de journalist gemaakt door ons en gemaild naar Times of India.



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Zwolse slangrobot op 'Techfest' India

Auteur: door Marion Groenewoud | zaterdag 31 december 2011 | 08:19

ZWOLLE - De kerstdagen heeft hij nauwelijks meegekregen en ook Oud & Nieuw zal aan de 25-jarige metaalkunstenaar Kees Klaassen voorbij gaan.

Sinds twee weken werkt de Zwollenaar non-stop in het R10-atelier aan zijn robotkunst. Hij is gevraagd voor een van de grootste technologische festivals van India, van 5 tot 8 januari op de universiteitscampus van Mumbai. "Ik ga niet meer naar bed voor ik in het vliegtuig stap."

Maandag vertrekt hij naar India. Samen met elektrotechnisch ingenieur Anton Stamhuis, zijn twee 'robotica' en een flinke dosis reserveonderdeeltjes. Klaassen volgde de Vakschool voor Goud- en Zilvermeden in Schoonhoven en produceert niet alleen opvallende slangachtige sieraden maar ook zijn nieuwste robotkunst lijkt op een elektronisch reptiel dat hij Tendril doopte. "Vernoemd naar plantaardige tentakels zoals we die zien bij druiven. Als ik aan de visdraadjes trek, begint hij te bewegen. En ik kan ook de kleuren van de ledlampjes veranderen. Dankzij het plexiglas is de installatie buigbaar." Volgens Klaassen is de slangachtige robot als ontwerp niet nieuw maar de constructie wel. "Dit object bestaat uit 30 bewegende elementen en slechts twee motoren." Vorig jaar was de metaalkunstenaar met zijn robotica te zien op het Gogbot Festival in Enschede, een evenement voor wetenschap en kunst. Via de organisatie van Gogbot kwam Klaassen aan de uitnodiging voor Mumbai. "Ik zoek naar de dialoog tussen mens en machine. Op zo'n manier dat je niet meer weet wie wie nu eigenlijk bestuurt."

In zijn vaders werkplaats in Zutphen, waar hij opgroeide, maakte Klaassen vroeger zelf verzonden metalen bouwpakketten omdat technisch lego te duur was. Zijn vader is houtbewerker en maakt strijktokken voor barkinstrumenten. Klaassen junior houdt ook van het oude ambacht. "Ik combineer altijd traditionele en nieuwe technieken." Voor de foto pakt hij voorzichtig zijn Tendril en hangt hem om de nek. "Dit is ook een soort sieraad", beaamt Klaassen. "De robot is nog niet helemaal afgeprogrammeerd. Ik weet dit weekend pas hoe hij precies gaat bewegen. Vloeiend of juist kronkelig. Ik verwacht dat hij golvend over de grond kruipt."

Twee weken verblijft Klaassen straks in Mumbai. "Ik wil de Indiase industrie en mentaliteit proeven en ruiken. Zijn de mensen daar ook trots op hun vele exportproducten, zoals wij dat waren op Philips of Scania? Of is het een wereld van slavendrijvers en pure uitbuiting?"



Metaalkunstenaar Kees Klaassen met zijn robot Tendril met wie hij maandag naar Mumbai vertrekt. "Ik zoek naar de dialoog tussen mens en machine. Zodat dat je niet meer weet wie wie nu eigenlijk bestuurt." foto Frans Paalman

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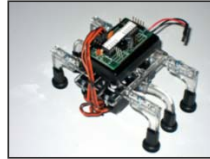
Final shortlist of Full Thr

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- Gaming Zone

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Fabbed robots to the rescue!

Edwin Derten is a media artist, scientist and teacher at Twente University, Enschede, Netherlands. He explores the boundaries of science, art and technology. At Techfest Edwin presents 'Fabbed robots to the rescue' These walking robots are incubated in a Fablab where they hatch under the lasercutter. A swarm of four legged critters have been made, trying to make their way into the world. Also other shapes are evolving out of flat acrylic sheets; quadrupeds, hexapods, even tracked and wheeled vehicles. This evolution has creationist's aspects, since the evolution is helped by an overall design challenge: build the best robot out of (max) 1A4 of sheet material. The serious idea behind these swarms are building dirt-cheap expendable robot swarms for search-and-rescue operations.



The tiny battery powered robots will be available for demonstration & play. Also some DIY kit versions of the robots will be brought. Edwin Derten will discuss the way these robots have been designed, the way the Fablab plays a roll in this and how the future of robot fabrication and robot research is affected by these ideas. Also a setup for a local (or global) A4-design challenge....

Get more information: <http://www.edwinderten.nl/>

GOGBOT

The GOGBOT festival is an annual festival, organized by PLANETART. The festival deals with subjects on the area of multimedia, art, music and technology. GOGBOT is a free entrance festival and wants to take art of

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 NAO ROBOT, FRANCE	 PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY, UK	 CHILDREN TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP, INDIA
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 METAL MATE, INDIA	 VIVE LES ROBOTS!, DENMARK	 ROBOCUP, GERMANY
 ID MIND, PORTUGAL	 C LAB, UK	 MIT HR3D, USA
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U R Machine

An interactive mechanical tentacle that can be activated by spectators by pressing a large red button. It makes random rhythmic movements giving this mechanical creature a curious impression. It is sad to see that at this stage of its evolution it is still blind, and with it's 20 kilo's bound to ceiling or wall. Artist Kees Klaassen is determined to have this robot evolve into an near future autonomous life form.



The second object Klaassen presents at Techfest is a snake like robot, illuminated by leds and fiber-optics. It's about 1.5 meter long and crawls on the floor. It is remote controlled and travelled to India to crawl around with no fear (in India people know not to step on snakes). This is the latest addition to Kees Klaassen's mechanical creatures and is a scaled prototype for a drivable art vehicle.

Electronics and programming: **Anton Stamhuis**

Get more information: <http://www.inkeesofmetals.nl/>

GOGBOT

The GOGBOT festival is an annual festival, organized by PLANETART. The festival deals with subjects on the area of multimedia, art, music and technology. GOGBOT is a free entrance festival and wants to take art of international quality out of the museums and make it accessible for a broad audience, by presenting it in public space. Also part of the yearly program are lectures, a film program and the Youngblood award. Here the work of graduates of Dutch art academies are presented. The festival takes place and takes place in Enschede, near the German border in the Netherlands, on a yearly base and counts around 20,000 visitors. To visit GOGBOT website, please [click here](#)

For further queries contact:

Vaibhav Dedeekar
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f t w yt

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Deelnemers
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Verhuur
Grafisch Atelier
Contact/Route

NIEUWS

R10-DEELNEMER KEES KLAASSEN GOES MUMBAI

Metaalkunstenaar Kees Klaassen zal op 2 januari vertrekken naar Mumbai. Hij is uitgenodigd om daar samen met elektrotechnisch Ingenieur Anton Stamhuis Nederland te vertegenwoordigen tijdens Techfest; het grootste technologische festival van India.

Beide heren startten in 2010 een kunstenaarscollectief, genaamd 'Full Form Freedom'. Onder deze naam hebben zij met hun kinetische sculpturen diverse festivals aangedaan, waaronder het Gogbot Festival in Enschede, een evenement voor wetenschap en kunst. De organisatie van Gogbot nodigde Kees dan ook uit voor Techfest dat gehouden wordt van 5 t/m 8 januari. Samen met hun robot 'Tendril' zullen Kees en Anton daar exposeren.

Voor Kees in de media, klik op onderstaande links:

<http://www.destentor.nl/regio/zwolle/10169383/Zwolle-slangrobot-op-Techfest-India.ace?formmode=thans&postingid=10173968#reageren>

Voor meer informatie over In Kees of Metals:

<http://www.inkeesofmetals.nl/>

Voor de avonturen van Kees Klaassen en Anton Stamhuis (Full Form Freedom) in Mumbai:

<http://fullformfreedom.cc/?cat=5>

ARCHIEF

- R10-deelnemer Kees Klaassen goes Mumbai
- R10 in FaLab Truck
- Workshops ARTEI Art Business Centre
- Kees Klaassen exposeert
- Expositie: tijdelijk toegankelijk, de wereld aan je voeten
- De Winkel
- The Incident room #4

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6 januari t/m 8 januari: GOGBOT kunstenaars bij Techfest, Mumbai

Techfest - GOGBOT kunstenaars in Mumbai, India.

Vijf Nederlandse kunstenaars zijn uitgenodigd om binnenkort namens GOGBOT werk te presenteren bij Techfest, het grootste technologie festival van Azië, ondersteund door UNESCO, in de miljoenenstad Mumbai, India. Techfest toont de nieuwste ontwikkelingen op het gebied van robotica, technologie en mediatkunst, en vindt plaats op de campus van de Universiteit van Mumbai.

In het kader van culturele en wetenschappelijke uitwisseling tonen GOGBOT organisatoren en mediatkunstenaars Kees de Groot en Viola van Alphen highlights van het jaarlijkse festival uit Enschede. Kunstenaar en uitbinder Edwin Dertien, verbonden aan de Universiteit Twente, toont zijn lopende robots, evakuerend uit een laserouting incubator. Metaalkunstenaar Kees Klaassen en programmeur Arjen Stamhuis presenteren hun interactieve robotarmen en kruspande slangen in Mumbai.

www.techfest.org
www.gogbot.nl

Vind ... Zoek

Held je aan voor de nieuwsbrief, klik op de link hieronder of vul direct uw e-mailadres in:

aanmelden nieuwsbrief

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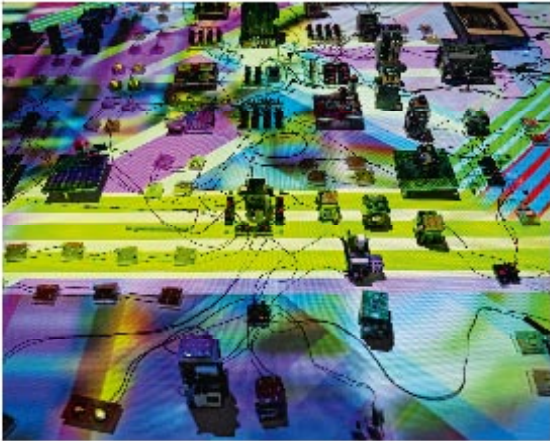
Aanmelden



Oproep



GOGBOT GOES TECHFEST



MUMBAI 2012

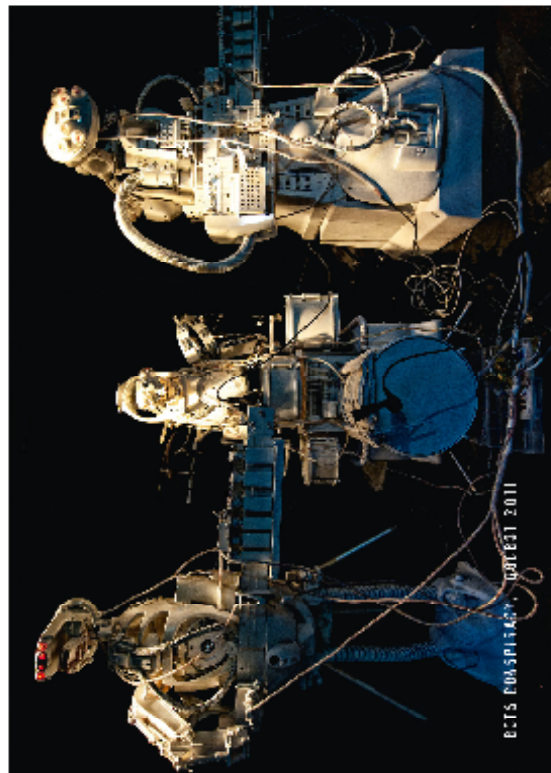
GOGBOT festival Art Music Technology Enschede NL

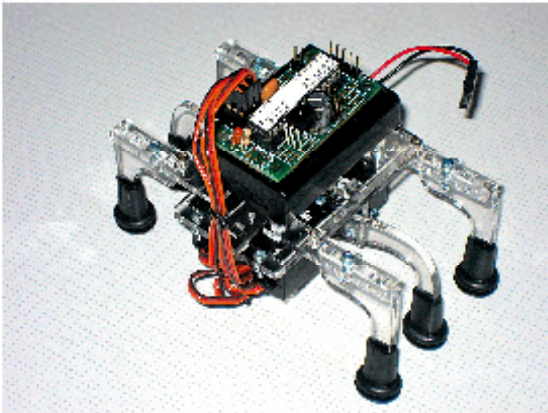
GOGBOT artists Viola van Alphen, Edwin Dertien, Kees de Groot, Kees Klaassen and Anton Stamhuis travelled to Mumbai, to present a selection of works at TECHFEST 2012.

TECHFEST 2012 Januari 6-7-8 Mumbai, India
Asia's Largest Science, Technology and Technical Festival.

Techfest, an independent body run by students of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, is the pioneer of science and technology festivals in India. It is Asia's largest annual science and technology festival. Apart from this, it has been involved in taking many path breaking initiatives to promote eco-friendly technology and revolutionize the present day Indian society. Techfest started in 1998 with the aim of providing a platform for students to showcase their talents in the field of science and technology and in the short period of 15 years has grown to become Asia's largest festival of its kind. The last few editions of Techfest have seen more than 85,000 participants from more than 2100 colleges across India along with teams from countries like the USA, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Nepal, Iran, Bangladesh, SriLanka, UAE, Denmark, Venezuela and Canada. Apart from student involvement, Techfest 2011 also saw more than 6,000 faculty members and corporate executives.

www.techfest.org





EDWIN DERTIEN (NL)

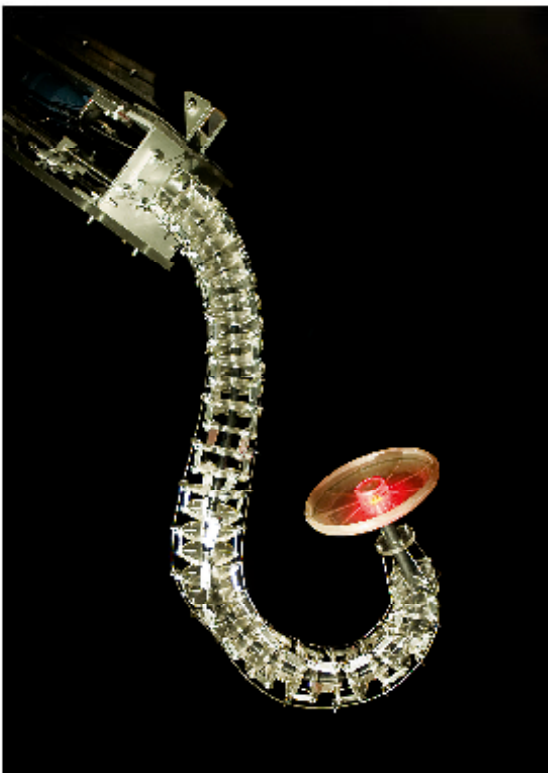
'Fabbed robots to the rescue!' 2012

These walking robots are incubated in a Fablab where they hatch under the laser cutter. A swarm of four legged critters have been made, trying to make their way into the world. Also other shapes are evolving out of flat acrylic sheets: quadrupeds, hexapods, even tracked and wheeled vehicles. This evolution has creationist's aspects, since the evolution is helped by an overall design challenge: build the best robot out of (max) 1A4 of sheet material. The serious idea behind these swarms are building dirt-cheap expendable robot swarms for search-and-rescue operations.

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Edwin Dertien is a media artist, scientist and teacher at Twente University, Enschede, Netherlands.
He explores the boundaries of science, art and technology.

www.edwindertien.nl



FULL FORM FREEDOM, ARTISTS COLLECTIVE (NL)

'Looking for life'

An interactive mechanical tentacle that can be activated by spectators by pressing a large red button. It makes random rhythmic movements giving this mechanical creature a curious impression. It is sad to see that at this stage of its evolution it is still blind, and with it's one and a half meter from tip to tail. Artists Kees Klaassen & Anton Stamhuis are determined to have this robot evolve into an near future autonomous life form.

'Tendrill'

The second object Full Form Freedom presents at Techfest is a snake like robot, illuminated by LEDs and fiber-optics. It's about 1.75 meter long and crawls on the floor. This radio controlled monster is the latest addition to Full Form Freedom's mechanical creatures and is a scaled prototype for a drivable art vehicle.

Design and mechanics: Kees Klaassen.
Electronics and programming: Anton Stamhuis.

www.fullformfreedom.cc
www.inkeesofmetals.nl



GOGBOT video screening
a selection of the festival highlights in a nonstop video-screening.
50min, stereo

STUDIO 1018, GOGBOT 2011



STUDIO 1018, GOGBOT 2011



GOGBOT
Art Music Technology

This annual festival takes place in the medieval center of the city of Enschede (NL) and presents developments in the field of interactive media art, making exhibitions, robotics, electronic music and audio art, web art, (h)acking art, security, workshops, parties and more.

GOGBOT explores topics relating to technology and society today, in 2011 dealing with 'Data panic', in 2010 with 'Singularity', the controversial prediction that within decades the exponential growth of technology will cause an explosion of artificial intelligence.

U.S. self author and Wired Editor Bruce Sterling – "Pfft, the Dutch counterculture cannot get any more messed up than GOGBOT... Maybe that's true, but I don't think Holland can get any colder and more out there than a synthetically isolated. It can get grungier, like if you're hanging out at GOGBOT, but it can't get any cooler."

WELD, FECHTES, JOHNSON 2011



WELD, FECHTES, JOHNSON 2011



www.gogbot.nl produced by www.planetart.nl
 directors: Kees de Groot, Viola van Alphen
 mail: contact@gogbot.nl
 phone: 0031 (0) 6 55 8303 11
 office: PLANETART, Noorderhagen 11, 7511 EJ Enschede, NL

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promotieboekje, oplage 1.000 stuks. Bezoekersaantal Techfest 2012: ca 100.000

Financieel overzicht:

Baten:	
Gemeente Enschede	3750
Ambassade	1730
Techfest	India transport. food. support
R10 Zwolle	2148.24
Techfest 9000 inr	132.55
eigen bijdrage PLANETART	1601.47
eigen bijdrage deelnemers*	964.39
tot	10326.65
Lasten	
hotel	670.06
tickets K+V	1377.66
extra bagage	58.06
ticket Edwin Dertien	1118.43
ticket Kees Klaassen	1118.43
ticket Anton en extra bagage, injecties, importtax, etc	2148.24
hotels. per diems. transport	2508.51
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vormgever	100
<i>*eigen bijdrage deelnemers:</i>	
ggd K+V	144
visum Viola	64.5
visum Kees	113.5
hotel	488.67
visa+ggd Edwin	153.72
tot	10326.65

- Noot: Techfest bood aanvankelijk voor een aantal van ons, goedkope logies aan in het gastenhuis op de campus, maar aangekomen in India, bleek deze niet meer beschikbaar. Daarna heeft Techfest 9000 inr bijgedragen in het zelf zoeken naar hotels, want hotels buiten de campus bleken vele malen kostbaarder.