

CNT ROBOTICS NEWSLETTER



December 2017

Happy Holidays to All!

ROBOTIS is expected to release some new products at the CES 2018 Conference in Las Vegas (Jan. 9-12, 2018) and they already started to show some sneak peeks at their USA web site:

- 1) U2D2 – a new USB communication module that will allow direct wired communications between the PC and their various hardware controllers and Dynamixel (<http://www.robotis.us/u2d2/>). This device is handy on those rare occasions when the firmware gets corrupted on ROBOTIS controllers and Dynamixel. It has a higher performance (up to 6 Mbps) and is designed to replace the USB2DYNAMIXEL and LN-101 modules (<http://support.robotis.com/en/product/auxdevice/interface/u2d2.htm>).
- 2) XL430-W250-T – a new actuator at \$49.90/unit which is comparable in price and performance to the venerable AX-12A (c. 2003) used in the STEM and BIOLOID series (<http://www.robotis.us/dynamixel-xl430-w250-t/>). So, I got a hunch that ROBOTIS will be announcing some new robotics kits at CES 2018.
- 3) OPENCN 1.0 (<http://www.robotis.us/opencn1-0/>) – this controller is for the TurtleBot 3 system (<http://www.robotis.us/turtlebot-3/>). It is more for advanced users knowing LINUX, ROS and ARDUINO, but Dabit Industries have recently ported BLOCKLY to TURTLEBOT 3, which would make this robot more accessible to high school students as it uses a “Block Programming” interface derived from the MIT SCRATCH software (<https://turtlebot-3-blockly-wiki.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html>).
- 4) DREAM 2 – The Korean ROBOTIS web site started to show a revised version of the DREAM system

(http://www.robotis.com/shop/list.php?ca_id=103010). DREAM 2 now has 5 levels instead of 4 as for DREAM 1 (<http://www.robotis.us/dream/>). DREAM 2 is still using the CM-150 controller, but it has a few more actuators and sensors, and also some new robot designs (<http://support.robotis.com/ko/product/education/dream2.htm>). It is still unknown about the exact DREAM 2 “edition” that would be available for the USA market.

5) SMART 3 (http://www.robotis.com/shop/list.php?ca_id=103020) – for years and for unknown reasons, ROBOTIS had been restraining from releasing this series to the USA market. However, the new and interesting feature of the SMART 3 system is the LEVEL 0.5 which is designed to serve as a “transition kit” for users who already possessed the DREAM 1 or 2 kits (http://www.robotis.com/shop/item.php?it_id=901-0054-102).

STAY TUNED FOR THE JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER when I hope to share more about new ROBOTIS product releases and Local Training opportunities.

HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR to ALL!

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