



IMPACT REPORT

Season 2025 - 2026



THE UK'S LARGEST NON-COMBAT ROBOTICS
COMPETITION FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Contact

Website www.unibots.uk

Email hello@unibots.uk

Welcome from our Directors



Dear ...,

Thank you very much for sponsoring our 2025-2026 Unibots season!

We're incredibly proud of what we managed to achieve: over 250 amazing students took part across our now multi-event season, our university network grew to 16 institutions, and we culminated at the finals with around 130 incredible participants and volunteers making the best Unibots finals event we've ever had!

You joined us at the perfect time as we began our expansion to new regions of the UK. Our two regionals in Edinburgh and Cambridge helped us reach more students leading to a buzzing final event in London. We thank you greatly for your support, and hope this impact report shows you the difference it made to our students. Now, as we look to next year, we want to continue this growth, and hope that we can do it together!

– Petar, Bruce and Liza



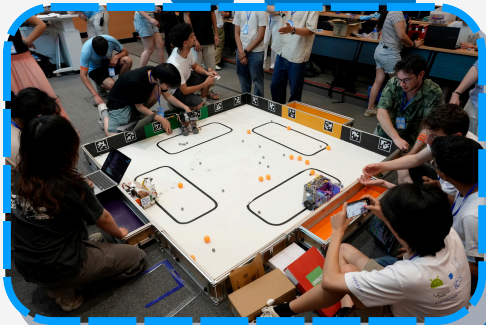
Our Impact in 2026



36
Student
Teams



16
Partner
Universities



250+
Student
participants



40+
Incredible
Volunteers



4
Industrial
partners

Our Student Impact



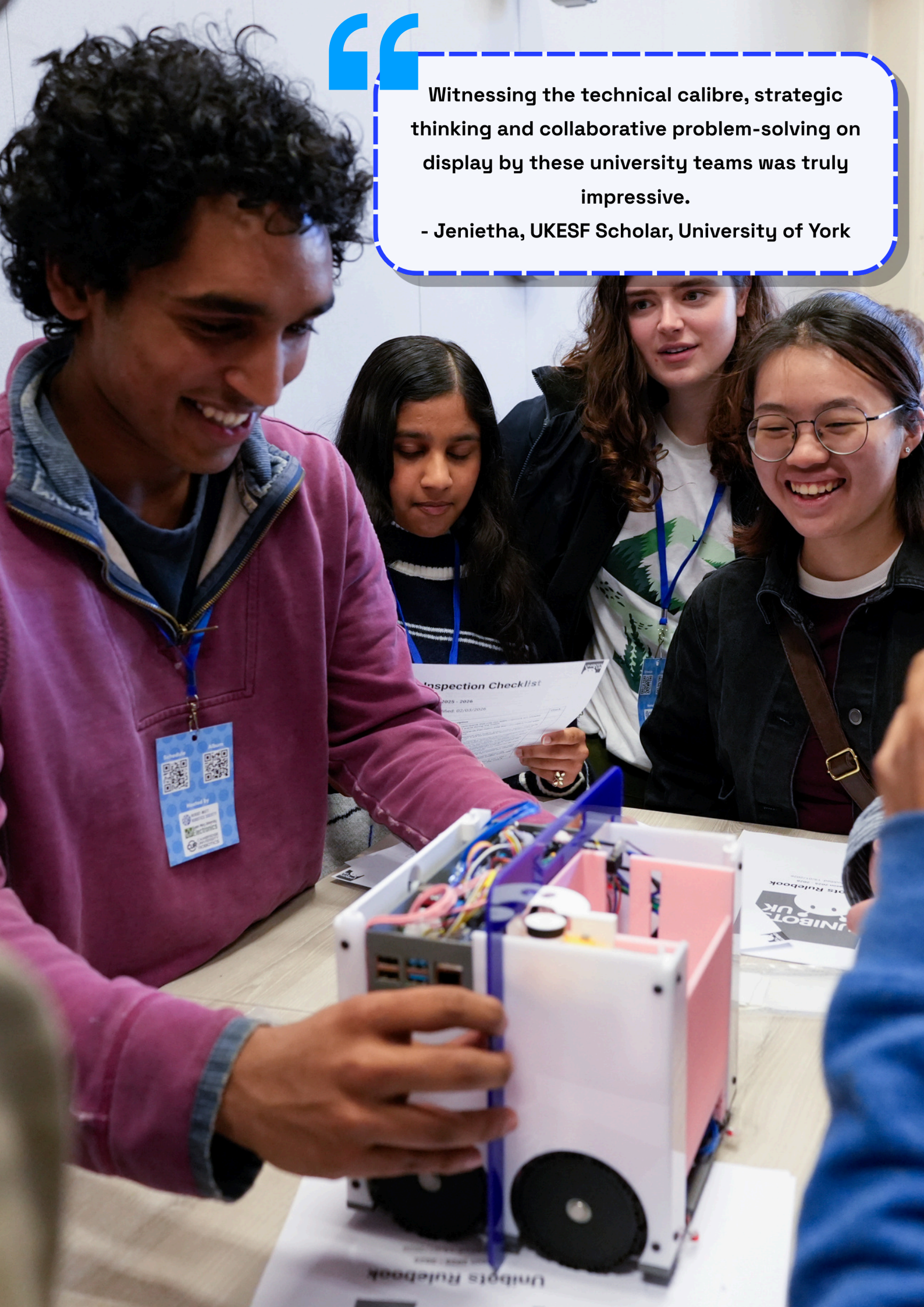
Throughout the season, students and universities have been eager to share their achievements and learning processes on LinkedIn.

Unibots was tagged in more than 40 posts with some posts reaching over 2.5k impressions.

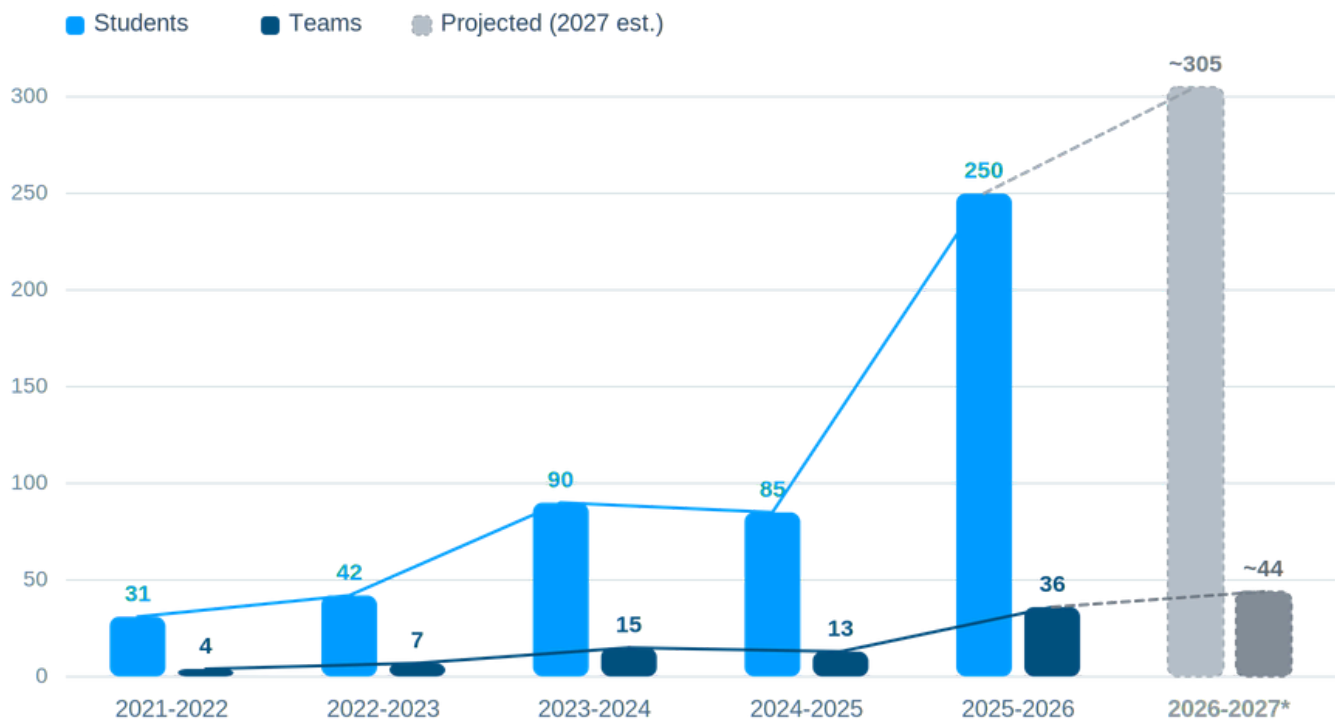


Witnessing the technical calibre, strategic thinking and collaborative problem-solving on display by these university teams was truly impressive.

- Jenietha, UKESF Scholar, University of York



Participation & Reach



*The 2027 projection is equal to the average annual change in previous years added to our last season's metrics.

Following a transitional year in 2024 - 2025, this season has been pivotal for Unibots. The competition saw record numbers in student attendance, **with over 250 students** competing throughout the season - nearly tripling team participation from previous years. We also expanded our university footprint to **16 universities** and broadened our national reach with **two new regional events** in Edinburgh and Cambridge and hosting our season finals in London!

Looking ahead to the 2026 - 2027 season, with the addition of two more regional events in the North and South-West England**, we are expecting over 305 students and hopefully many more teams to compete.

**For more information on the 2026 - 2027 season programme, please reach out.

31 → 250
Students
2022 to 2026

4 → 36
Teams
2022 to 2026

~305 / ~44
Projected 2027
(students/ teams)

Our Growth

Beginnings

Unibots was originally created as a student competition by societies from the University of Southampton and the University of Cambridge

2022



Growing

The second year, the competition grew, jumping to a bigger space at the University of Cambridge

2023



Expanding

Heriot-Watt University Robotics Society joined the organising societies introducing the presence of Scottish Universities in the competition

2024



Strengthening

Student retention grew considerably with teams returning to the event year after year

2025



Evolving

Unibots progresses into a new format including regionals and a UK-wide finals event in London.

2026



Transforming

We continue to grow by introducing new regionals, partnering with more universities and sponsors and transforming into a community interest company to champion the UK's leading university robotics competition

2027



More than a Competition

Unibots creates a space for students to learn, understand, and compete in autonomous robotics. Through our approach of project-based learning, we provide an environment where students are able to apply and develop skills touched on by university, but often not explored in-depth. Those are often the very skills which employers look for - the ability to transfer knowledge and solve problems.

Growing practical skills is just the start of it! Unibots also creates a space for students to connect with like-minded other students, providing networking opportunities with purpose. We want to encourage collaborations between universities and industry, sharing of employment opportunities, and even entrepreneurship. (Did you know: since 2014/15, over 42,000 student start-up companies have emerged with support from universities!)



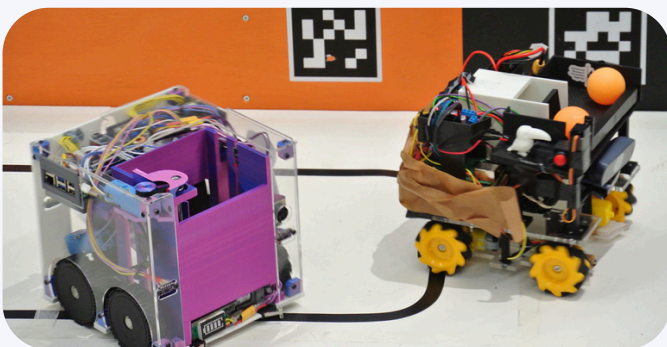
WHAT THE TEAMS ENJOY THE MOST:

"I really enjoyed how open every team was to talk about how they built their robots and how their software works!"

"It meant long hours of debugging, redesigning, testing, failing, and trying again, exactly the kind of challenge that pushes you to grow as an engineer!"

"It's an enriching experience for learning, passion, and hard work, and will spur us on for better designs in the future."

"I learned a lot in the process of making the robot; not only did it improve my programming skills but it also gave me the experience of working in a very interdisciplinary team."





Sometimes, I ask myself whether it is worth continuing to try when there are so many difficulties and challenges along the way. I think the answer will always be yes. That's why I keep participating in new competitions — not only to build better robots, but also to develop the resilience to keep going when things don't go as planned.

- Yudong, Team #10, University College London

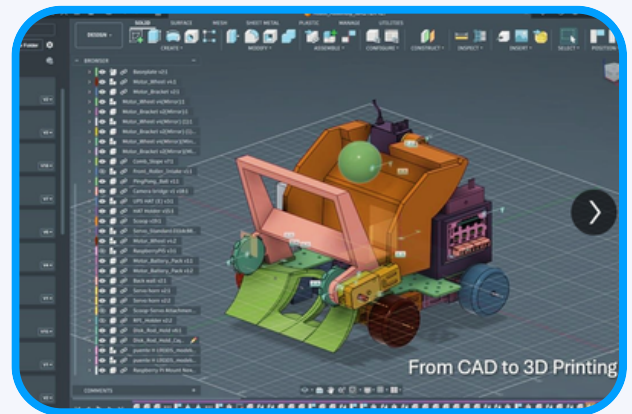
Awards Highlights

Our students really went above and beyond this year, and we introduced two awards to recognise team excellence! Both awards were judged live at the finals by two of our sponsor representatives who evaluated teams on creativity, engineering process, and quality of challenge solution. Having sponsors directly involved in judging gave students real feedback from industry and gave sponsors hands-on visibility into the talent pipeline they're supporting.

TECHNICAL AND CREATIVITY AWARD ★

Recognises the team whose robot design demonstrated the greatest technical ingenuity and creative thinking.

University of Oxford's team presented two innovative designs: a sorting system that incorporated a hollow compartment under the robot with openings to allow only ball bearings inside; and a canvas backing for their ball scoop that dampened the force of an incoming ball and reduced the number that would be deflected during capture. Both designs were highly praised by the judges which won them the award!



★ BLOGGING AWARD

Recognises the team whose outreach and engagement most compellingly documented their journey to the competition - from preparation and design process to their team's story.



The team from University of Oxford again came out on top with their above and beyond community engagement! They presented articles from university channels as well as multiple personal articles documenting their developmental process. They also exhibited their Unibots experience at freshers and offer-holders inductions events to inspire new students to pursue an electronics course or join their robotics society. They even demonstrated their Unibots robot and technical skills during a pitch to BMW Mini!

Awards Highlights

COMPETITION STANDINGS

After a day of league matches, the top four teams battled it out in the knockout rounds.

Imperial Chefs triumphed again! After winning the Edinburgh and Cambridge regionals, the team returned to win the finals event, with a spectacular 188 game points scored - more than double the second place team. KCL Rawr, OxBots, and Unibaguettes, however, gave an amazing competition, and all put in an incredible amount of effort, and learned a lot along the way!

Imperial Chef's team lead, Ansh Agarwal, shared these words about the victory:

"When trying to assemble the team 6 months ago, I never could have imagined how much we would have ended up achieving but I think we've proved that ambition with relentless hard work, works... Testing in our half broken, less than ideal arena, throwing in random obstacles and the most unlikely (but still possible) scenarios, made our robot bulletproof and allowed us to test and refine all edge cases (like spitting out the tyres we swallowed from our competitors) to secure our victory."



Imperial Chefs #7 - Imperial College London

2

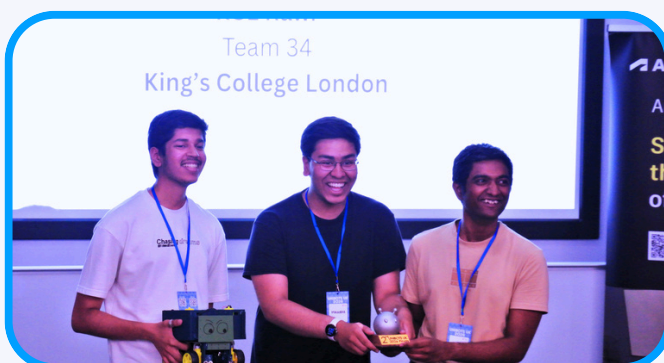
KCL Rawr #34 - King's College London

3

OxBots #12 - University of Oxford

4

Unibaguettes #5 - Heriot-Watt University





“This project was the ultimate hands-on experience for my year, pushing my technical limits and teaching me critical team-building skills. when I later stepped up as co-team lead, I gained invaluable experience in task management, resource allocation, and the importance of maintaining a positive, solution-oriented outlook to keep the team motivated. I walked away realising that my successful product is always a result of an organised, highly collaborative, well aligned team.”

- Lorenzo, Team #21, King’s College London



Behind Unibots

Unibots is led by a team combining robotics engineering, research, and education expertise along with public engagement and event management.



Bruce Wilson

PhD candidate in Human-Robot Interaction, studying the importance of narratives. He brings a depth of experience in robot design, game design and software engineering, along with his wide experience in working with charitable organisations.



Liza Masson

Robotics engineering graduate and a previous Schools Outreach Officer at the National Robotarium, currently working as Project Manager. She brings hands-on experience planning physical and online events, along with a strong focus on public engagement and STEM outreach.



Petar Kotsev

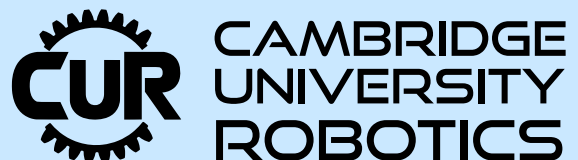
Robotics engineering graduate and current PhD student in Neuro-Symbolic computer vision systems. He brings a span of experience across engineering education and robotics software development.

Thank you to our:

2025-2026 Season Sponsors



2025-2026 Season University Partners





Thank You

Please reach out if you would like to discuss the 2027 season's support.

**FROM UNIVERSITY PROJECTS
TO SUPPORTING
THE FUTURE OF ROBOTICS**

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