

# Underground Robot News

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Issue #1

## Upcoming Events

### Lego Mindstorms – Can you handle the challenge?

National Instruments engineer Igor Alvarado will demonstrate how you can build and program your own robots easily using Lego Mindstorms. Come enjoy!

**7:00 pm July 21, 2011- La Madeline Restaurant, 9828 Great Hills Trail, Suite 650**



### An afternoon with a Roboticist!

Come enjoy refreshments and meet a premier leader in humanoid robotics, Dr. Luis Sentis.

**2:00-4:00 pm August 6, 2011- Barnes and Noble Arboretum.**



### Robot waiters take over restaurant in China, coming to Texas soon!



Tips are a thing of the past at one high tech restaurant in northern China. The Dalu Robot restaurant, which has been open since December 2010, features a wait staff composed entirely of robots. These robots, like the one seen in the photo at left, move around the restaurant on tracks and feature motion sensors which allow patrons to stop the servers and take plates of food.

Additional robots also greet customers as they enter the restaurant and provide entertainment.

The idea could catch on in other parts of the world as well. Robotic waiters, which cost around \$6,000 each and don't take tips, have the potential to save both restaurant owners and patrons money. While no plans have yet been formally made to replace Texas waiters with robots, don't be surprised if robots are serving at your favorite restaurant soon. – Photo credit: Associated Press

### \*\* WIN YOUR OWN ROBOT!!! \*\*

A robot door prize will be given away at the July 21<sup>st</sup> Lego Mindstorm Challenge event. Show up for your chance to win!



## Build Your Own Lego Robot!



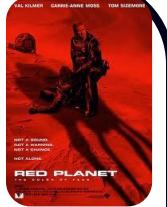
If you come home and find that your ten year old son has spent the day building full scale autonomous robots, don't be surprised. Lego has recently released an update to its popular Mindstorm series which makes robotics child's play, literally. Mindstorms allow anyone to build robots that are aware of distance, color, touch, and sound and can move with up to three servo motors. All of this can be easily programmed using a simple graphical programming language.

The Lego Mindstorm was developed in partnership with National Instruments who is very involved with science and engineering education. It is their hope that these Legos can be used to get kids interested in technology. This system is certainly user friendly and a great place to start exploring robotics so brush off the old Legos and join the Mindstorm challenge!



## Robots in Hollywood!

Each month, Underground Robot News will review a movie featuring the future of acting, robots!



This month's movie is *Red Planet* starring Val Kilmer and Carrie-Anne Moss. Kilmer and Moss play astronauts dispatched to Mars to discover why terraforming attempts haven't taken hold. Also aboard is AMEE, a robot who quickly malfunctions and becomes obsessed with killing the crew.

This movie has it all; space adventures, mysterious aliens and, most importantly, a 'killer' robot performance that would make the Terminator himself proud. At a time when NASA is launching its first robotic explorers (Robonaut), this movie has a strange feeling of possibility. I give *Red Planet* 3.5 out of 4 gears.

