

Top experts on planetary robotics at TKK

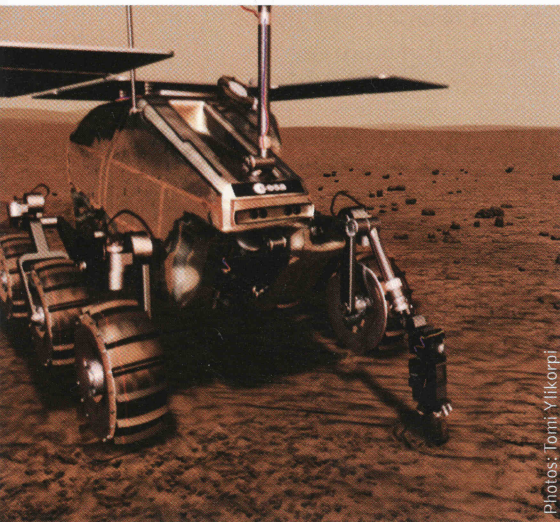
A lively and inquisitive audience attended when international top experts on planetary robotics met at the Planetary Rover Symposium in April, arranged by the TKK Faculty of Automation and Systems Technology. The topics of the symposium included

the robotics research of ESA, Mars and Moon rovers, and Soviet and Russian planetary and mobile robots between 1963 and 2007. The symposium was open to the public.

Dr. **Richard Volpe** (Manager, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, USA) told the audience about computer vision, JPL's rover missions to Mars, and the history of space robotics.

Gianfranco Visentin, Head of the Automation and Robotics Section (ESA/ESTEC), covered the robotics research of ESA.

Soviet and Russian planetary and mobile robots from 1963–2007 were presented by **Alexei Bogatchev** (Science & Technology Rover Company, St. Petersburg, Russia), and the Professor of Embedded Systems at the University of Oulu, **Juha Rönning**, talked about robotics research at Oulu University and shared his experiences of the ESA Lunar Rover Challenge. ■



Photos: Tomi Ylikorpi