

# Press release

## CASE 2024: Bari prepares to host one of the world's most important automation and robotics conferences

The **20th IEEE Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE 2024)**, one of the world's most relevant events in automation and robotics, will be held at the Nicolaus Hotel in Bari, Italy, from August 28 to September 1, 2024.

CASE 2024 is one of the most important events organized by the **Robotics and Automation Society (RAS)** of the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)**. The IEEE is the world's largest association in the field of engineering and advanced technologies, with nearly half a million members in 150 nations. The IEEE is renowned for its publications and standards, which span almost every aspect of modern electronics and computing.

The organization of the conference was entrusted to an international committee of experts led by **Professor Mariagrazia Dotoli**, Full Professor of Automation at the **Department of Electrical and Information Engineering (DEI)** of the **Politecnico di Bari**, with the support of numerous faculty and researchers from the same department.

The event has been sponsored by local institutions, including the **Puglia Region**, the **Municipality of Bari**, the **Puglia Foundation** and the **Order of Engineers of the Province of Bari**, as well as support from the **Italian Society of Teachers and Researchers in Automation (SIDRA)** and the **Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Machines (I-RIM)**.

CASE 2024 is already shaping up to be a tremendous success, with more than 900 participants already registered among professionals, academics, students, and industry enthusiasts from all over the world, and an impressive number of scientific submissions from more than 50 countries, marking a 30 percent increase over last year.

## Why automation?

CASE 2024 is a meeting point for academics, researchers, and industry professionals worldwide to discuss the future of automation. The theme chosen for this edition, "**Automation 5.0: Automation Everywhere for Better and Smarter Living**," is not a random choice. On the contrary, it is intended to highlight automation as one of the most transformative forces of our time, capable of improving not only industrial processes but also everyday life, often in ways we take for granted.

Automation, in its many forms, is a pillar of technological progress that affects almost every aspect of our lives. From home automation systems, which make our homes safer and more efficient, to photovoltaic systems that produce renewable energy independently, automation makes life easier, saves time, and promotes environmental sustainability. At the industrial level, using robots on assembly lines is a clear example of how technology can improve the quality of human labor by delegating repetitive and dangerous tasks to machines.

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## A special edition

This year, the conference celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since its inception in 2005 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, CASE has become a hugely important annual event for the global automation community, promoting innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Various activities will commemorate a significant milestone, including the “**CASE@20/TASE@20**” event. This event will celebrate not only 20 years of CASE, but also the anniversary of the **IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering (IEEE T-ASE)** journal, one of the most prestigious scientific publications in the field of automation.

## The Program

CASE 2024 offers a packed program of technical sessions, plenary presentations, workshops and panel discussions, aiming to share the latest innovations and trends in automation and robotics. Key topics include the digital transformation of industrial processes, artificial intelligence, collaborative robotics, and Industry 5.0, which focus on their ethical and social aspects.

The conference will begin on Aug. 28 with a guided tour at the Politecnico di Bari, offering participants the chance to explore the facilities and laboratories of one of Italy's leading research and training centers at the forefront of electronics, computer science, and automation. In the afternoon, tours will be held at two industrial excellences in Puglia: **Masmec**, a leader in precision engineering in the automotive and biomedical sectors, and **Magna Powertrain**, a major supplier to the automotive sector. Parallel to the tours, **the CASE24 Summer School on Autonomous Systems for Smart Cities**, aimed at young researchers from around the world, will take place.

From August 29 to September 1, the conference will host a series of plenary presentations by world-renowned experts. Keynote speakers include **Ansgar Kriwet**, Chief Technology Officer of **Festo SE & Co. KG (Germany)**; **Qing-Shan Jia**, Professor at **Tsinghua University (China)**; **Aude Billard**, Professor at the **Swiss Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne (Switzerland)** and president of RAS; and **Sonia Diaz Martinez**, Professor at the **University of California (USA)**.

In addition to plenary presentations, the conference includes about 700 technical presentations divided into 14 parallel sessions, covering a wide range of topics related to automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence. On Sept. 1, 14 single-topic technical workshops will be held, allowing participants to explore specific topics in depth.

## Not just academia

The 2024 edition of CASE will feature 20 sponsors, including institutions, companies, and universities, who will actively contribute to the event's success. Among them, multinationals such as **Beckhoff Automation**, **MAGNA**, **e-distribution**, **E80 Group** and **Tesmec**, along with young and dynamic companies such as **PAL Robotics** and **g-nous**, will present their innovative solutions in the field of industrial automation and intelligent systems. Local companies, such as **ICAM**, **Masmec** and **BionIT Labs** will showcase the technological excellence of the Apulian territory,

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emphasizing the vital link between innovation and territory. Significant contributions will also come from institutional and research partners such as **Banca Intesa Sanpaolo**, **MediTech** and the **MICS ministerial project**.

To emphasize the strong involvement of local companies and industrial partners, August 29 will be dedicated to industry, with a series of activities to promote collaboration between academia and industry. During the industrial panel, representatives from **Magna**, **Masmec**, **Oversonic Robotics**, and **e-distribution** will discuss the latest trends and challenges in manufacturing and robotics. The day will conclude with a session dedicated to standardization, designed to inform industry professionals and researchers about the processes involved and the benefits of automation.

## **Puglia: crossroads of innovation and technology**

Although previous editions of CASE have been hosted in major metropolises such as Mexico City, Auckland, and Hong Kong, Bari's choice for 2024 is not random. With its fast-growing technology innovation ecosystem, Puglia is emerging as a strategic hub for Industry 4.0 and advanced research. The organization of an event of this magnitude in this region demonstrates how the Apulian territory has been able to earn the trust of the international community, confirming its ability to excel both in terms of hospitality and infrastructure quality.

CASE 2024 represents a unique opportunity to strengthen Puglia's role in the international context of innovation. The region is not only a place of extraordinary natural beauty but also a dynamic territory from an industrial and technological point of view. CASE 2024 will be an extraordinary opportunity to show how Puglia is up to future challenges.



*Mariagrazia Dotoli, General Chair, IEEE CASE 2024*

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