



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Don Anderson

888-427-3428

[don@gumstix.com](mailto:don@gumstix.com)

**gumstix president to attend International Robotics Summit in Canada  
In concert with Simon Fraser University, Canada and the University of Essex, UK**

**Palo Alto, Calif., Sept 12, 2005** – gumstix, inc., maker of the world’s smallest full function miniature computers (FFMC), today announced that their Founder and President, Gordon Kruberg, has been invited to attend an international robotics conference at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC, Canada on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

“I am looking forward to this Robotics Summit with Professor Vaughan of Simon Fraser University and with Professor Holland of the University of Essex”, Kruberg shared. “This will give us the change to advance the robotics work that both Universities are doing as well as allow me to understand their projects better”.

“We have been collaborating with gumstix inc. for a year or so now” ” said Professor Richard Vaughan of the Autonomy (Robotics) Lab in the School of Computing Science at Simon Fraser University (SFU) near Vancouver, Canada. “We’re building a fleet of 40 12cm<sup>3</sup> robots based around the gumstix computers running Player (<http://playerstage.sf.net>). It is our pleasure to host Gordon Kruberg and Owen Holland at SFU. We’re doing great things with gumstix already, but we want to figure out where we can push robotics in the future. We can do that faster if we work together.”

The Robotics Summit commences with a talk from Professor Holland, as follows:

Title: “Could we build a conscious robot?”

Abstract: In the last few years, a new discipline has begun to emerge: machine consciousness. This talk will describe the background to this movement and will present a line of thought showing how the problem of constructing a truly autonomous robot may also constitute an approach to building a conscious machine. The basis of the theory is that an intelligent robot will need to simulate both itself and its environment in order to make good decisions about actions, and that the nature and operation of the internal self model may well support some consciousness-related phenomena.

## **About gumstix**

gumstix develops and sells small, inexpensive, high performance, Full Function Miniature Computers (FFMC). Built on an open source platform, the award winning gumstix product line supports the growing Linux devices market and offers motherboards, expansion boards and waysmall computers. The company sells directly to commercial users, designers, and open source enthusiasts in the embedded, wired and wireless devices, and application-server markets.

Based near Palo Alto, California, gumstix is privately owned and operated. For more information, visit <http://www.gumstix.com>

## **About Simon Fraser University**

Simon Fraser University, named after the explorer Simon Fraser, opened in September 1965 on Burnaby Mountain, near Vancouver, BC, Canada. In less than 40 years, SFU has gained an international reputation for its strengths in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as for its innovative interdisciplinary and professional programs. SFU offers programs at the graduate and undergraduate level to approximately 25,000 students.

The Autonomy Lab builds life-like machines. Their goal is to increase the autonomy (i.e. self-direction and self-maintenance) of robots and other machines. More information about the SFU Autonomy Lab may be found at this link:

<http://autonomy.cs.sfu.ca/>

## **About the University of Essex**

Owen Holland is a Professor of Computer Science and Director of Research at the University of Essex, England. His current projects are in the areas of machine consciousness, particle swarm optimization, and swarms of small helicopters. Originally an engineer, Professor Holland has been an active researcher in psychology, Artificial Life, swarm intelligence and robotics. He has been Visiting Associate in Electrical Engineering at Caltech, Principal Research Scientists at the CyberLife Institute, Chief Scientist at Starlab, and Reader in Electrical Engineering at the University of West England.

Professor Holland also interested in the history of cybernetics (he found and restored one of Grey Walter's original tortoises) and is writing a book on the Ratio Club, a cybernetic dining club that included Alan Turing, Ross Ashby, and Grey Walter among its members.

More information may be found at <http://cswww.essex.ac.uk/staff/owen/research.htm>