

## **UK Company specialising in non-disruptive insulation of Social Housing is named The Best Start-up at the *Invention and Entrepreneurship in Robotics Awards* held in Seattle, USA**

We are delighted to announce that Q-Bot Ltd is the winner of the IEEE Invention and Entrepreneurship in Robotics and Automation Award for 2015. This was announced in Seattle at the IEEE/IFR Joint Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Robotics and Automation (IERA) on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, in front of over 2700 US and international delegates.

The winning pitch at the IEEE/IFR conference in Seattle was presented by Tom Lipinski, a founding director of Q-Bot and serial entrepreneur. The judges at the event were impressed not just by the cutting edge robotics technology developed in-house and applied in practice but by the positive social impact of the company - improving the lives of people on low incomes and in fuel poverty.

Q-Bot is a robotics company, which provides a solution for under floor insulation of homes with suspended timber floors, of which there are over eight million in the UK alone. Previously the only way to insulate the floors of these homes was to take up the floorboards, a prohibitively expensive solution causing significant disruption and often forcing the resident to move out.

The solution uses a robot inserted through an air vent from outside the property and deploys within the void. The robot then applies insulation to the underside of the floorboards, keeping them on the warm dry side and still allowing the ground to breathe, reducing the risk of damp. This cost effective service reduces cold draughts and uneven temperatures which significantly improves comfort, whilst saving between £200 and £300 a year in energy bills and reducing fuel poverty as a result.

Tom Lipinski said: "A UK Start-up winning the World Entrepreneurship in Robotics Award might sound odd – we consider Japan as the leader in Robotics and US in enterprise. Yet very little of the current Robotics know-how is being actively applied to real life problems, especially in the US. Yes we are at the forefront of robotic vision, image fusion, localization and mapping but it is the impact we have that makes this the most rewording job on the planet: helping reduce fuel poverty and improving lives while saving energy and the environment. This wouldn't be possible if it wasn't cost effective but thanks to the cutting edge technology, it is - we have a number of Social Housing clients who prove it."

Camden Council, Peabody and CityWest Homes trialed the service in March 2014, all with highly positive results. In Camden heat-loss through the floor was reduced by 78% and cold air infiltration was eradicated, reducing infiltration into the house by over 60%. In the CityWest trial the total heat loss through the floor was reduced by 86%. In addition, a 45% reduction in cold air infiltration was achieved despite the single glazed sash windows remaining untreated. Most importantly, the trials resulted in happy tenants, living in much more comfortable homes, without having suffered any disruption to their day to day life from the insulation work.

Peter Armfield, the Sustainability Manager of CityWest Homes said: "Most importantly the tenants are comfortable and happy as it makes an immediate difference to their wellbeing as well as the energy cost. This is why we intend to look at how we can apply the treatment across our portfolio."

Web Links:

IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (<http://www.ieee-ras.org>)

International Federation of Robotics (<http://www.ifr.org>)

<http://www.ieee-ras.org/industry-government/ifr-forum>

<http://www.q-bot.co/>