

The Future of Business in Pittsburgh

November 2022

Shift Robotics' Moonwalkers are the World's Fastest Shoes

Pittsburgh-based robotics company Shift Robotics has launched a successful crowdfunding campaign to accept pre-orders for Moonwalkers, which they promise will be “the world’s fastest shoes.” According to their website, “Moonwalkers are the first-ever enhanced mobility device that enables you to walk at the speed of a run. They are fast, safe, and nimble, allowing you to navigate busy sidewalks easily.”

Moonwalkers fit over existing shoes and are “powered by artificial intelligence.” They use machine learning algorithms to move when the user moves and stop when the user stops. With a top speed of 7 miles an hour and a range of 5-7 miles, the shoes promise to get users to their destination in less than half the time with a 250% increase in walking speed. Shift Robotics, a Carnegie Mellon University spin-out, has been developing the product for over 5 years.

Unlike roller skates or inline skates, the Moonwalker wheels are gesture controlled and can be locked in place until the user begins walking. This means they can be used on stairs and when standing still, and can also be used on hills.

In a video, Shift Robotics CEO Xunjie Zhang says that Moonwalkers are “One small step for walking, one giant leap for the future of urban mobility.” Moonwalkers retail for \$1399.00 and are expected to begin shipping to Kickstarter backers in March of 2023. Learn more at <https://shiftrobotics.io/>.



Shift Robotics' Moonwalkers are expected to ship in March 2023.

Pittsburgh Robotics Discovery Day to Showcase World Leading Robotics Cluster

An estimated 5,000 students, business professionals, investors and members of the public had the opportunity to experience the power and promise of robotics and artificial intelligence firsthand at the first ever Pittsburgh Robotics Discovery Day, which was held on November 16, 2022. The event, organized by the Pittsburgh Robotics Network, featured dozens of companies demonstrating their robotics and AI technologies, and provided educational institutions and related community organizations the opportunity to connect directly with attendees.



Pittsburgh Robotics Discovery Day enabled the public to experience robotics firsthand.

Exhibits included a self-driving truck from Aurora, Agility Robotics' Digit bipedal humanoid, Shift Robotics' Moonwalkers, PITT-MIT-RW's autonomous racecar, and much more. The event also featured robots built by student teams from Pittsburgh area school districts, and provided an opportunity for aspiring roboticists to learn about career pathways and speak directly with the companies that may one day be hiring them.

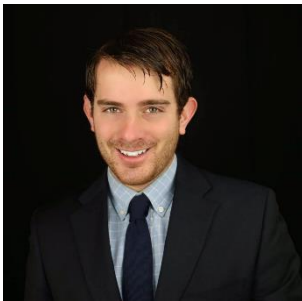
"Discovery Day offers something for everyone, and it provides us with a unique opportunity to share the work we're so passionate about with the larger Pittsburgh community," said Pittsburgh Robotics Network Executive Director Joel Reed.

Speaking with the Pittsburgh Business Times, he added "We have this established community, but we have to create some connectedness across all of it and be purposeful in the pathways that we're developing for the new generation of workers that we're all going to need. I think today's result was it affirmed that [this ecosystem] is much larger than even we were thinking because if you think about a total ecosystem, it does take training partners, it takes retraining organizations, it takes manufacturing partners who are adopting that technology and using it."

Planning for Pittsburgh Robotics Discovery Day 2023 is already underway.

Pittsburgh Business News and Updates

- Remotely operated cars from Mapless AI tested at Pittsburgh International Airport (<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/profiles/2022/10/18/remote-control-cars-testing-at-pittsburgh-airport.html>)
- Astrobot's LunaGrid is on a mission to power up the Moon (<https://nextpittsburgh.com/latest-news/astrobotics-lunagrid-is-on-a-mission-to-power-up-the-moon/>)
- Pittsburgh's velo.ai brings autonomous vehicle tech to your bike (<https://pgh.rustbuilt.org/p/autonomous-vehicle-tech-for-your-bike>)
- Maroon Assistive Technologies' exoskeleton saves your back (<https://nextpittsburgh.com/latest-news/inside-pittsburgh-tech-how-the-maroon-assistive-technologies-exoskeleton-saves-your-back/>)
- AV testing without a human driver takes off in Pennsylvania (<https://technical.ly/civic-news/pennsylvania-autonomous-vehicle-safety-driver-law-signed/>)



About Ryan

Ryan O'Shea is a JETRO Investment Advisor focused on connecting Japanese companies to opportunities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the host of Future Grind, a podcast that explores the ethics and impact of emerging science and technology, and also works with the Pittsburgh Robotics Network. In 2017, Ryan co-founded an artificial intelligence startup that was named a Top 10 team in the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE. Ryan has represented NASA and CalTech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Solar System Ambassador and serves both as a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and an ambassador for Pittsburgh AI. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh & serves on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations.