

The Future of Business in Pittsburgh

April 2023

Pittsburgh Robotics at ProMat

Pittsburgh robotics companies were front and center at ProMat 2023, the leading trade show for the manufacturing and supply chain industry. Numerous companies used the show as the opportunity to make product debuts and to provide live demonstrations of some of the revolutionary technologies being built and deployed in Pittsburgh.

[Agility Robotics](#) was the talk of the event with the [debut of the next generation Digit](#), which they featured in numerous live demonstrations. Digit is the first human-centric, multi-purpose robot made for logistics work, and is designed from the ground up to go where people go and do useful work safely in spaces designed for people.

[Thoro.ai](#), a [Carnegie Robotics](#) spinoff, also made headlines as [Big Lift, LLC - Big Joe Forklifts unveiled Pallet Mover](#), a new user-directed autonomous mobile robot (AMR) they developed through a partnership. This new unit seeks to revolutionize on-demand material handling across a broad number of industries by offering Thoro.ai's proven self-driving technology at an accessible price point on one of the most common material handling vehicles, an electric pallet truck.



Left: Thoro CEO Patrick Mondy stands next to an autonomous mobile robot powered by Thoro technology. Right: The brand-new Digit from Agility Robotics has been unveiled.

[Seegrid](#) was on hand to [showcase the interoperability of Seegrid AMRs](#), demonstrating fully automated cart-loading and unloading on the show floor.

[Gather AI](#) launched Dashboard Inventory Actions at ProMat. According to [Global Trade Magazine](#), "With Gather AI's solution, inventory drones can fly through a warehouse, photograph pallet locations, then compare the bar codes, text and images with the warehouse management system (WMS). The Gather AI solution dashboard helps warehouse teams find and fix inventory exceptions."

ProMat is one of numerous conferences and events that Pittsburgh robotics companies will be featured at in 2023, with upcoming events including [Automate](#), [The Robotics Summit & Expo](#) and more.

Keystone Space Collaborative lands \$400,000 grant to foster economic growth

The [Keystone Space Collaborative](#) has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Committee (ARC). The grant will be used to support the Keystone Space Collaborative's initiative to grow the space economy and space-related workforce in Pennsylvania, as well as two states a short distance from Pittsburgh: Ohio and West Virginia.

The Keystone Space Collaborative was founded in 2021 and has quickly become a premier space organization committed to attracting, growing and amplifying the next generation of space industry businesses and talent in the Pittsburgh area.



The award will help support education and workforce development initiatives.

“The Keystone Space Collaborative is committed to emboldening and further developing the space industry in the tri-state region (OH, PA and WV), given the significant impact that the growing global space economy is projected to have on innovation-oriented economic growth and job creation,” said Justine Kasznica, Board Chair of the Keystone Space Collaborative.”

“Working to support and grow Pennsylvania’s foothold in the space industry brings jobs to the region and boosts the economy,” said Acting Secretary Rick Siger of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), which provided support.

Keystone Space programs and initiatives that will benefit from the two-year funding include web-based, space-relevant education to support continued development of a well-rounded space industry workforce, workshops and educational lectures.

Pittsburgh Business News and Updates

- Pittsburgh's innovation funding outperforms national trends
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2023/03/06/pittsburgh-s-innovation-funding-outperforms-trends.html>)
- Mine Vision Systems lands contract with large silver mining firm ahead of its Series A raise
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/profiles/2023/02/16/mine-vision-systems-hecla-contract-series-a.html>)
- Gecko Robotics land new work with the US Navy
(<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/03/a-ship-scaling-robot-is-getting-new-work-with-the-us-navys-fleet/>)
- Initiative launches on patient safety and technology in health care
(<https://triblive.com/local/regional/regional-initiative-launches-on-patient-safety-and-technology-in-health-care/>)
- Pittsburghers' 'loyalty' could attract companies to expand here
(<https://technical.ly/civic-news/pittsburgh-economy-league-vitals-report-workforce-turnover/>)



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.